

TAX BENCHMARKS AND VARIATIONS STATEMENT

2018

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

The Tax Benchmarks and Variations Statement, referred to hereafter as ‘the Statement’, supplements other Government publications by providing information on Australian Government tax benchmark variations. The Statement provides annual information on Australian Government tax benchmarks and variations, as required by Section 12 of the *Charter of Budget Honesty Act 1998*.

The title of this publication has been updated to Tax Benchmarks and Variations Statement, replacing the previous title of Tax Expenditures Statement. This change, first used in the 2018-19 Budget, reflects the broader objective of the Statement to describe the benchmarks of the tax system as well as the extent to which the tax system deviates from these benchmarks so as to inform the public and contribute to the discussion of the design of the tax system.

Revenue estimates published in budget papers and the taxation statistics made available by the Australian Taxation Office focus on incomes that are subject to tax and the revenue the Government collects.

The Statement complements this information by primarily focusing on revenue the Government *doesn't* collect: it lists provisions in the tax system that apply an alternative treatment of particular taxpayers or forms of economic activity and, where possible, estimates the difference in revenue as a result. It is intended to facilitate scrutiny of tax benchmark variations by Parliament and parliamentary committees, the media and the general public. Transparent reporting of variations to the tax benchmarks also helps inform debate on the efficiency and equity of the tax system.

The 2018 Statement reflects Australian Government policy up to and including the *2018-19 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook*.

1.1. What is a tax benchmark?

Tax benchmarks represent a standard taxation treatment that applies to similar taxpayers or types of activity. Certain tax exemptions, deductions or offsets may apply a different taxation treatment to the tax benchmark and can give rise to a positive or negative variation from the benchmark.

The benchmarks in the Statement have been chosen in a way that attempts to apply a consistent tax treatment to similar taxpayers and similar activities. The choice of tax benchmark unavoidably involves judgment and therefore, may be contentious in some cases. These judgments are informed by long standing features of the tax system, practice in tax expenditure publications in other jurisdictions and consultation with stakeholders. The tax benchmark should not be interpreted as an indication of the way activities or taxpayers ought to be taxed.

Detailed information on the tax benchmarks used in the 2018 Tax Benchmarks and Variations Statement is in section A.4 of Appendix A: Technical notes.

1.2. What is a tax benchmark variation?

A tax benchmark variation arises when there is a difference in revenue between the actual and benchmark treatments.

In order to determine whether a tax variation exists and to estimate the value of the variation to the tax benchmark it is first necessary to determine what the standard tax treatment or ‘benchmark’ is.

1.3. How are variations to the tax benchmark estimated?

The majority of estimates included in the Statement are provided on a ‘revenue forgone’ basis. This is consistent with the approach taken by most OECD countries in their equivalent tax benchmarks and variations publications.

Revenue forgone estimates reflect the existing utilisation of a benchmark variation and do not incorporate behavioural response to the reduction or removal of the variation to the tax benchmark. They measure the difference in revenue between the existing and benchmark tax treatments, assuming taxpayer behaviour is the same. A positive variation to the tax benchmark reduces tax payable relative to the benchmark. A negative variation to the tax benchmark increases tax payable relative to the benchmark.

The revenue forgone tax benchmark variation estimates can be found in Chapter 3: Tax benchmark variations. This chapter also includes a summary of the large measured variations to the tax benchmark for 2018-19 as well as an outline of the changes to the list of tax benchmark variations since the 2017 Tax Expenditures Statement.

Please note the following regarding revenue forgone estimates:

- revenue forgone estimates are not estimates of the revenue increase if a variation to the tax benchmark were to be removed;
- estimates should not be added together as reducing one concession would often affect the utilisation of others;
- estimates of the same tax benchmark variation should not be compared to previous publications because they can be affected by changes in policy, benchmarks, modelling methodology, data or assumptions;
- readers should exercise care when comparing tax benchmark variation estimates with direct expenditure estimates;
- the reliability of the estimates varies, many estimates are only an indication of the magnitude of the concession;
- some estimates are unquantifiable due to insufficient data to produce a reliable estimate for a tax benchmark variation item;
- estimates are in nominal dollars – for example, 2018-19 estimates are in 2018-19 dollars and 2019-20 estimates are in 2019-20 dollars; and
- tax benchmark variation estimates are prepared on an accrual basis.

An alternative approach involves estimating the impact of abolishing a benchmark variation taking account of the potential changes in taxpayer behaviour. This is known as the ‘revenue gain’ approach. The revenue gain tax benchmark variation estimates, which are provided for 10 large tax benchmark variations, can be found in Chapter 4: Revenue gain estimates of tax benchmark variations.

These estimates take into account behavioural responses and are usually lower than revenue forgone estimates.

Introducing a variation to the benchmark may create incentives for taxpayers to change their behaviour to utilise (or avoid) the new tax provision. Removing the variation (so that the benchmark tax treatment prevailed) would remove this incentive and may cause a corresponding change in taxpayer behaviour.

In particular, taxpayers may make greater use of other benchmark variations if a particular variation were to be (hypothetically) abolished.

For example, a revenue gain estimate for the concessional treatment of employer superannuation contributions would take account of the potential for voluntary employer contributions to be redirected to other tax-preferred investments.

Please note the following regarding revenue gain estimates:

- revenue gain estimates do not take into account any potential changes in direct expenditure flowing from the removal of a tax benchmark variation;
- the revenue gain can be difficult to estimate given highly limited information on how taxpayers might react to the removal of a tax benchmark variation;
- revenue gain estimates assume that a tax benchmark variation is abolished completely and with immediate effect – transitional arrangements or reduction of the tax benchmark variation may be more plausible; and
- judgments also need to be made about likely policy settings – for example, whether it is realistic to assess the abolition of a single tax benchmark variation (for example, a particular GST exemption) while keeping other tax benchmark variations unchanged (for example, other GST exemptions).

1.4. What else is in the Tax Benchmarks and Variations Statement?

This year's publication includes a feature chapter on estimating owner-occupied housing tax benchmark variations, Chapter 2: Owner-occupied housing tax benchmark variations. It discusses the challenges of determining an appropriate benchmark for owner-occupied housing due to the dual nature of owner-occupier housing as both an investment and a consumption good. Alternative benchmarks that could arise from different judgements are considered. The methodology used to quantify the tax benchmark variation estimates for owner-occupied housing is summarised, and estimates are presented for the alternative benchmarks.

Appendix A: Technical notes provides further technical information regarding the reliability of estimates, how unquantifiable tax benchmark variations are reported, detailed information about the benchmark tax treatment used in the Statement and an overview of the various modelling techniques used to quantify tax benchmark variation estimates. The descriptions of the tax benchmark variations assume some familiarity with the benchmark tax treatment outlined in this appendix.

CHAPTER 2: OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING TAX BENCHMARK VARIATIONS

Purchasing a home to live in has some unique aspects as an investment; it is a valuable asset that is likely to appreciate over time, but is also a place to live. Most investments are not consumed by their owner, and most goods do not increase in value as they are consumed.

Benchmark tax treatments used in the Tax Benchmarks and Variations Statement (the Statement) are chosen based on a principle of similar activities being taxed in a similar manner. However, the dual nature of owner-occupied housing poses a difficulty: should owner-occupied housing be compared with the benchmark tax treatment of an investment or a consumption good?

A decade has passed since the first estimate of tax benchmark variation for owner-occupied housing appeared in the 2008 Tax Expenditures Statement.¹ This anniversary presents an opportunity to review the complexities involved in choosing a benchmark for owner-occupied dwellings and the challenges in quantifying estimates. Section 2.2 discusses the tensions between the current tax benchmark treatment and the neutrality principle that similar investments and activities should be taxed in a similar manner. Based on this discussion, alternatives to the current benchmark that satisfy different notions of this principle are identified. Section 2.3 provides an overview of the methodology used to quantify the benchmark variation estimates under the alternative benchmarks. Section 2.4 presents revenue forgone estimates for the alternative benchmarks.

The purpose of this article is to provide an indication of the subjective nature of the benchmark tax treatment and the methods used to derive the estimates of the value of the benchmark variation. The discussion around the choice of benchmark in this chapter should not be interpreted as an indication of the way owner-occupied housing ought to be taxed.

¹ Treasury 2009, *2008 Tax Expenditures Statement*, The Treasury, Australian Government, p 211.

2.1. Current tax treatment of owner-occupied housing

For the purposes of this section, the taxation of owner-occupied housing is contrast with the taxation of other similar investments, in particular investment properties. Three broad categories of taxation activity are considered: the treatment of capital gains or losses (the change in the value of the dwelling between purchase and sale), the taxation of the consumption of the home (the rental value of the dwelling) and the treatment of expenses incurred in earning investment income (purchasing and maintaining the dwelling).

TREATMENT OF THE CAPITAL GAIN

The benchmark tax treatment for capital gains applied in Chapter 3 of the Statement is that the full increase in nominal value of the asset between purchase and disposal, less any costs associated with purchase or capital improvement of the asset that have not previously been deducted against assessable income, is included in taxable income in the year the asset is sold under capital gains tax (CGT).²

This compares with the typical treatment of CGT assets for individuals under current law where, if the asset has been owned for at least 12 months, only 50 per cent of any nominal capital gain is included in taxable income (any loss can only be used to offset other capital gains only). The 50 per cent discount is a variation from the benchmark (E14).

Capital gains or losses on the disposal of an individual's main residence are generally exempt from CGT, to the extent the dwelling is used as a home and has not been used to produce assessable income.³

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- 2 The taxation of gains on disposal is a departure from the Schanz-Haig-Simons (SHS) definition of income that is the starting point for determining income tax benchmarks in the Statement. Under the SHS definition, income is equal to the increase in an entity's economic wealth (stock of assets) between two points in time plus the entity's consumption in that period. Under this treatment, the annual appreciation/depreciation in value would be included in taxable income each year. For further detail, see Appendix A.
 - 3 An individual can choose to treat a dwelling as their main residence after they cease to live in it for up to six years after leaving the dwelling, provided they do not have another main residence. If an individual elects to apply the 'six-year rule', they are eligible for the full CGT main residence exemption on disposal of the property and any capital gain or loss is disregarded.

The treatment of the capital gain on the main residence is separated into two parts in the Statement. The first part (E7) covers the revenue forgone due to exempting capital gains on the main residence relative to the typical discounted CGT treatment for individuals. The second part (E6) covers the remaining revenue forgone had the taxpayer been subject to CGT on the full capital gain on the residence. The sum of the two parts is the total revenue forgone relative to a benchmark where the full nominal net capital gain is taxed.

TREATMENT OF THE CONSUMPTION VALUE OF THE HOME

How should a person's 'consumption' of their home be measured? Many economists use the concept of 'imputed rent'.

By choosing to live in their own dwelling rather than rent it out, owner-occupiers forgo the opportunity to earn rental income (reducing their income). However, they also do not pay rent on the dwelling they live in (reducing their expenses).

In terms of measuring purchasing power, this is equivalent to treating the homeowner as if they are renting their house to themselves, and including the rental value of the home (net of additional expenses a landlord would incur) as part of both income and expenditure. This additional 'income' is referred to as imputed rent. Including imputed rent in income recognises that a homeowner can achieve a higher standard of living than a non-homeowner with the same income.

Imputed rental 'income' is not taxed, nor is the associated 'expenditure' subject to consumption tax. This is consistent with the legal 'mutuality principle' that an individual cannot derive income from themselves (or that an organisation cannot derive income from its members) and that goods produced or services performed for an entity's own consumption are not included in the tax base.

The mutuality principle is considered a structural feature of the tax system, and incorporated into the benchmark tax treatment in the Statement. As such, imputed rental income is not assessable under the benchmark tax treatment, meaning there is no benchmark variation associated with imputed rent in the Statement.

EXPENSES INCURRED IN PURCHASING, MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING THE HOME

An extension of the mutuality principle is that any expenses incurred in earning mutual income cannot be deducted. On this basis, expenses associated with the purchase and maintenance of an owner-occupied dwelling cannot be deducted under the benchmark tax treatment used in the Statement.

These expenses are also exempt under current law consistent with the principle that they do not give rise to any assessable income. This means there is no benchmark variation associated with these expenses.

2.2. Alternative considerations in choosing a benchmark

Arguably, the benchmark treatment of owner-occupied housing applied in Chapter 3 of the Statement prioritises mutuality (a taxpayer can't derive income from itself) over the principle of neutrality (that the benchmark should apply a consistent tax treatment to similar taxpayers undertaking similar activities). This section illustrates that these principles can be competing. The alternative approaches presented here illustrate that making different judgements regarding how to define a 'consistent tax treatment for similar taxpayers' gives rise to different benchmarks (which in turn impacts the size of benchmark variation estimates).

ALTERNATIVE BENCHMARK ONE: CGT NEUTRAL

The current benchmark assumes the expenses incurred in purchasing, maintaining and improving the dwelling are expenses incurred in earning imputed rental income. Because the imputed rental income is not assessable under the benchmark, these associated expenses are not deductible.

However, it could be argued that these expenses are incurred to support earning the capital gain, which is assessable under the benchmark.

Generally, under CGT rules, incidental costs of acquiring an asset (such as stamp duty or interest on loans), costs of holding the asset (for example, land taxes and council rates) and costs to preserve or increase the value of the asset can be included in the cost base when calculating the capital gain, if they have not previously been deducted against assessable income.

Neutrality between owner-occupied dwellings and other CGT assets would suggest that expenses incurred purchasing, maintaining and improving the dwelling should be included in the CGT cost base if the capital gain is assessable.

ALTERNATIVE BENCHMARK TWO: TENURE NEUTRAL

An alternative interpretation of the neutrality principle is that residential property owners should be taxed consistently regardless of whether they choose to live in their dwelling, or make it available for rent.

Under such a benchmark, the imputed rent that owner-occupiers effectively pay themselves would be assessable, consistent with the rental income from investment dwellings. Expenses incurred in earning this income, including mortgage interest, taxes and costs of maintaining and improving the dwelling would be deductible against assessable income - consistent with the similar deductions claimed against assessable income by investors.

For GST purposes, the supply of properties for rent is 'input-taxed', GST is not paid on the rental income, and the owner of the property cannot claim input tax credits for any expenses incurred in making the property available for rent. Tenure neutrality would suggest that there should also be no GST implications in respect of the imputed rental income.

A benchmark where all dwelling owners are treated equivalently may be a particularly useful construct for evaluating the impact of benchmark variations for owner-occupied housing. However, the inclusion of imputed rent in the tenure neutral benchmark is clearly in opposition to the mutuality principle.

SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVE BENCHMARKS CONSIDERED

A summary table of the alternative benchmarks considered in this chapter is included below.

Table 2.1: Alternative benchmarks for owner-occupied housing

	Income tax treatment under current law	Benchmark in Chapter 3: Mutual Income Exempt	Alternative Benchmark One: CGT Neutral	Alternative Benchmark Two: Tenure Neutral
CGT implications from the sale of the dwelling	x	✓	✓	✓
Gross imputed rent	x	x	x	✓
Expenses for interest, maintenance and improvement	x	x	✓ (included in CGT cost base)	✓ (deducted against ordinary assessable income)

2.3. Estimating the value of owner-occupied housing tax benchmark variations

A challenge in quantifying benchmark variations for exempt activities, such as owner-occupied housing, is that detailed data required to determine outcomes for individual taxpayers under alternative tax treatments is not collected by the Government. This is because this information is not required for tax administration purposes.

Due to the absence of comprehensive data on owner-occupier purchases, holding periods, and capital gains and associated expenses, estimates rely on combining aggregate information from a number of data sources, using imperfect proxies and a number of assumptions. The estimates can be sensitive to some of these assumptions, such as the periods owner-occupied dwellings are held for. Because of this, estimates are highly uncertain and should be considered indicative of orders of magnitude only.

The estimates are created at an aggregate level for the Australian housing market. The modelling does not allow for any distinction to be made between different segments of the housing market, geographic regions, or homeowners of different income levels.

The estimates, consistent with Chapter 3 of the Statement, are constructed on a revenue forgone basis. No consideration is given to the possible behavioural changes that would arise from implementing any of the benchmark tax treatments. The Statement does not include revenue gain estimates for benchmark variations relating to the main residence due to the significant uncertainty around what the behavioural response would be. This means that estimates cannot be interpreted as the amount of revenue that would be raised were the law changed to match the benchmark treatment.

At a high level, the estimates are constructed in two stages. The first involves estimating the aggregate additional taxable income under each benchmark, and the second estimating the average tax rate that this additional income would face.

ESTIMATING THE ADDITIONAL INCOME

The additional income is constructed by summing estimates of the average values of investment returns, purchase expenses and holding costs that are applicable under each of the benchmarks, then multiplying that average by the number of households.

This subsection briefly summarises the data sources and methodology used to arrive at these estimates.

Capital gain (or loss)

Historical estimates of the number of owner-occupied dwellings sold each year have been based on housing transfer numbers from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Housing Finance data, grossed up to account for properties purchased without requiring borrowing finance. These numbers are projected forward to future years based on estimated population growth.

This information is supplemented with estimates of the distribution of holding periods for owner-occupied dwellings, calculated from the Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey.

Combining these gives the number of owner-occupied dwellings sold for each combination of purchase and sale year.

The capital gain on the dwelling is approximated by the difference between the average (population weighted) median housing prices across capital cities (from ABS 6416.0) between the purchase and sale years. Future growth in median house prices is based on Treasury economic parameter projections underlying the Budget.

For the purposes of these estimates, owner-occupiers who realise a capital loss are assumed to carry the loss forward and utilise it to offset the capital gain on future owner-occupied residences.

Stamp duties payable on the purchase of the dwelling are generally considered part of the costs of acquiring the CGT asset, and can therefore be included in the cost base.⁴ An average stamp duty is estimated based on the average purchase values of dwellings.

Imputed rent

A further challenge in quantifying the tax benchmark variation for the alternative benchmark including imputed rent is that no transaction occurs. Instead, the rental value of an owner-occupied dwelling needs to be imputed from the rents charged on similar dwellings in the rental market.

⁴ Note that, unlike stamp duty on the transfer of freehold title used in other jurisdictions, stamp duty paid under the ACT's leasehold system can be deducted against assessable rental income (rather than included in the CGT cost base). This subtlety is ignored for the purpose of producing estimates.

The ABS Australian System of National Accounts (ABS 5204.0) includes time series estimates of aggregate imputed rent based on data from the Census, the Survey of Income and Housing, the Consumer Price Index and real estate industry reports. This aggregate estimate is projected into the future based on the rounded average of imputed rent growth over the past decade. The aggregate estimate is then divided by the estimated total number of owner-occupied dwellings to give an average annual value per owner-occupied dwelling.

Capital works

Rental investors are able to claim a deduction for construction expenditures relating to extending or altering a dwelling or making structural improvements to the property. The costs of construction can be deducted against assessable income over a period depending on the type of construction and when the construction occurred (typically 40 years), reflecting the asset's depreciation over time. On sale of the property, any capital works expenses that have not been deducted against assessable income can be included in the cost base when calculating capital gains.

Earlier estimates of the benchmark variation for owner-occupied dwellings explicitly included an allowance for capital works, using data from the ABS Household Expenditure Survey (ABS 6540.0). However, the capital works component did not materially impact estimates.⁵

Mortgage interest expenses

The proportion of owner-occupied dwelling purchases each year that involved a mortgage and the average principal borrowed have been estimated from HILDA and Housing Finance (ABS 5609.0) data.

The average interest expenses on these dwellings are estimated based on the mortgage repayments required on a 25 year variable rate loan. Historical interest rates are taken from the Reserve Bank of Australia variable mortgage rate series, and are held constant into the future.

Other expenses

The average value reported by the investors offering dwellings for rent at the income tax return label 'other rental expenses' is used as a proxy for the additional expenses owner-occupiers incur in holding and maintaining their dwelling.

⁵ Pulo, 2010, *Tax expenditure considerations for owner-occupied housing*, Treasury Economic Roundup Issue 2, 2010, p87.

This label includes all rental deductions that are not related to interest or capital works, including for example insurance, council rates, property management fees, repairs and maintenance and gardening costs. This includes some costs investors face that are not relevant to owner-occupiers (for example, property management fees), and will not capture any expenses faced by owner-occupiers that are not relevant to investors, but is used as it is the best available proxy.

ESTIMATING THE AVERAGE MARGINAL TAX RATE

The progressive personal tax system means that owner-occupiers in different circumstances may face different marginal tax rates. Further, including the additional income from their main residence in their taxable income under an alternative benchmark tax treatment may push them into a higher tax bracket – particularly if they are realising a large capital gain from the sale of the dwelling.

The population of owner-occupiers is split into cohorts based on the following characteristics which determine, on average, what amount of additional income would be incurred under each of the considered benchmarks.

- *Is the dwelling owned jointly?* Dwellings that are jointly owned can split the additional income according to shares of ownership.
- *Was the purchase financed by borrowing?* If so, owners will incur interest expenses.
- *Was the dwelling sold this year?* If so, this gives rise to a CGT event.
- Separate average marginal tax rates are estimated each year for different cohorts of owner-occupiers with different amounts of additional income under the respective benchmark tax treatment.
- The average marginal tax rate applicable for each of the cohorts is then estimated based on the expected average tax rate that would apply to the additional income if it were included on top of the existing taxable income of a randomly chosen individual tax filer. This assumes that the likelihood of a taxpayer being an owner-occupier is completely independent of their current year taxable income.
- The average tax rate is applied to the total additional income to give the benchmark variation estimate for each cohort for the year. Summing across all cohorts gives the total benchmark variation estimate for the year.

2.4. Tax benchmark variation estimates against alternative benchmarks

Applying this methodology for the three different benchmarks identified in Section 2.2 gives the following benchmark variation estimates. (Note: these are the total benchmark variation estimates for the main residence exemption, going from exempt to taxation at full marginal rates. The estimates for the benchmark with mutual income exempt are the sum of the estimates at E6 and E7 in Chapter 3.)

2.2: Alternative benchmark variation estimates for the main residence exemption

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Mutual income exempt	59,500	67,500	69,500	66,500	64,500	67,000	69,500
CGT neutral benchmark	18,500	23,500	23,500	21,500	24,500	27,500	31,500
Tenure neutral benchmark	65,000	74,000	77,000	75,000	74,000	77,500	81,500

The estimate for the benchmark used in Chapter 3 of the Statement, which prioritises the exemption of mutual income and expenses above other considerations, is \$66.5 billion in 2018-19. The estimate for 2018-19 is slightly lower than recent years as a result of lower house price growth resulting in lower capital gains.

However, the benchmark which allows interest expenses and other costs associated with holding and maintaining the property to be incorporated into the CGT cost base has a benchmark variation estimate that is approximately only one third of the size of the mutual income benchmark. This result is intuitive as a higher cost base would reduce the taxable capital gain under this benchmark, reducing the forgone revenue.

The tenure neutral benchmark extends the mutual income benchmark by including imputed rent in assessable income each year, but allowing the deduction of interest expenses and costs of holding and maintaining the dwelling against this income. Estimates of the benchmark variation against the tenure neutral benchmark are slightly higher, but of a similar order of magnitude, to the benchmark that prioritised exempting mutual income. In aggregate, this indicates that the value of revenue from taxing imputed rents would only slightly outweigh the value of deductions for mortgage interest and other expenses. Further, this aggregate impact hides that recently purchased homes with a mortgage are typically negatively geared, while homes that have been held for longer periods have imputed rent that exceeds holding, maintenance and interest costs.

By relying on different judgements, the three benchmarks presented here could arguably all be valid choices. Yet, depending on these choices, the orders of magnitude for the benchmark variations estimate can differ substantially. This illustrates starkly the sensitivity of benchmark variation estimates to subjective judgements made regarding the choice of the benchmark.

CHAPTER 3: TAX BENCHMARK VARIATIONS

This chapter provides information on all Australian Government tax benchmark variations estimated, where possible, on a revenue forgone basis. It also includes a summary of the largest measured tax benchmark variations for 2018-19, an outline of the changes to the list of tax benchmark variations since the 2017 Tax Expenditures Statement (TES) and a guide to the tax benchmark variation descriptions.

3.1. Large tax benchmark variations

Table 3.1 lists the largest measured tax benchmark variations for 2018-19.

The table includes revenue gain estimates for several of the largest tax benchmark variations. These estimates illustrate that:

- significant differences can arise between revenue forgone and revenue gain estimates, particularly because the latter attempt to take account of behavioural change by taxpayers; and
- conversely, in some cases, revenue gain and revenue forgone estimates are identical or very similar as taxpayer behaviour is assumed to be relatively insensitive to a tax benchmark variation.

Unquantified tax benchmark variations have been assigned an order of magnitude rather than an estimate of their value. The largest such tax benchmark variations include:

- exemption for foreign branch profits from income tax (B9);
- off-market share buy-backs (B25);
- income tax exemption for prescribed entities (B49);
- refund of franking credits for certain income tax exempt philanthropic entities (B55);
- statutory effective life caps (B71); and
- quarantining of capital losses (E21).

When considering the estimates in Table 3.1 please note:

- revenue forgone estimates are not estimates of the revenue increase if a tax benchmark variation were to be removed;
- estimates should not be added together as reducing one tax benchmark variation would often affect the utilisation of others;
- estimates of a tax benchmark variation should not be compared to estimates in previous publications because they can be affected by changes in policy, benchmarks, modelling methodology, data or assumptions;
- readers should exercise care when comparing tax benchmark variation estimates with direct expenditure estimates;
- the reliability of the estimates varies, many estimates are only an indication of the magnitude of the tax benchmark variation;
- some estimates are unquantifiable due to insufficient data to produce a reliable estimate for a tax benchmark variation;
- estimates are in nominal dollars – for example, 2018-19 estimates are in 2018-19 dollars and 2019-20 estimates are in 2019-20 dollars;
- tax benchmark variation estimates are prepared on an accrual basis;
- revenue gain estimates should be treated with particular caution;
- revenue gain estimates do not take into account any potential changes in direct expenditure flowing from the removal of a tax benchmark variation;
- the revenue gain can be difficult to estimate given highly limited information on how taxpayers might react to the removal of a tax benchmark variation;
- revenue gain estimates assume that a tax benchmark variation is abolished completely and with immediate effect – transitional arrangements or reduction of the tax benchmark variation may be more plausible;
- judgments also need to be made about likely policy settings – for example, whether it is realistic to assess the abolition of a single tax benchmark variation (for example, a particular GST exemption) while keeping other tax benchmark variations unchanged (for example, other GST exemptions).

Table 3.1: Large measured benchmark variations in 2018-19

Benchmark variations	Estimate \$m	
	Revenue forgone	Revenue gain
Large positive benchmark variations		
E7 Main residence exemption - discount component	36,000	n/a
E6 Main residence exemption	30,500	n/a
C4 Concessional taxation of superannuation entity earnings	19,550	19,250
C2 Concessional taxation of employer superannuation contributions	17,750	17,050
E14 Discount for individuals and trusts	9,350	n/a
H26 Food	7,300	7,100
H14 Education	4,750	4,250
H17 Health - medical and health services	4,300	4,250
H2 Financial supplies - input taxed treatment	3,600	3,600
Deductibility of life and total permanent disability insurance premiums provided inside of superannuation	2,540	n/a
C6 Exemption from interest withholding tax on certain securities	2,360	1,620
A24 Concessional taxation of non-superannuation termination benefits	2,300	2,300
B2 Local government bodies income tax exemption	2,150	n/a
Medicare levy exemption for residents with taxable income below the low-income thresholds	1,960	n/a
A19 Exemption of Family Tax Benefit payments	1,940	1,940
A57 Philanthropy - deduction for gifts to deductible gift recipients	1,880	n/a
A27 Exemption of Child Care Assistance payments	1,855	n/a
B52 Lower company tax rate	1,800	n/a
C1 Concessional taxation of capital gains for superannuation funds	1,700	n/a
D14 Exemption for public benevolent institutions (excluding hospitals)	1,700	n/a
Exemption for public and not-for-profit hospitals and public ambulance services	1,700	n/a
D10 Child care services	1,540	n/a
A17 Exemption of the Private Health Insurance Rebate	1,500	n/a
C3 Concessional taxation of personal superannuation contributions	1,450	n/a
Concessional rate of excise levied on aviation gasoline and aviation turbine fuel	1,310	n/a
H18 Health - residential care, community care and other care services	1,200	n/a
A39 Exemption of certain income support benefits, pensions or allowances	1,120	n/a
A26 Exemption for National Disability Insurance Scheme amounts	1,110	n/a
H6 Water, sewerage and drainage	1,090	n/a
B73 Capital works expenditure deduction	1,080	n/a
E30 Small business 50 per cent reduction	1,020	n/a
Large negative benchmark variations		
F11 Higher rate of excise levied on cigarettes not exceeding 0.8 grams of tobacco	-2,580	n/a
F22 Customs duty	-1,500	-1,500

Please note the caveats on the estimates outlined on page 18.

3.2. Changes to tax benchmark variations in 2018

This section provides an outline of the changes to the list of tax benchmark variations since the 2017 TES. Since the 2017 TES, five new tax benchmark variations have been added, several tax benchmark variations have been modified and two tax benchmark variations have been deleted.

For further detail on the benchmark please see Appendix A: Technical notes.

3.2.1 NEW TAX BENCHMARK VARIATIONS

Table 3.2 reports new tax benchmark variation items arising from measures that have been announced since the 2017 TES up to the date of the *2018-19 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook* as well new tax benchmark variations that have been identified.

Table 3.2: New benchmark variations

Code	Benchmark variation title	Reason for new benchmark variation
A43	Denial of deductions for vacant land	New policy measure announced in the 2018-19 Budget.
B22	Superannuation Guarantee amnesty	New policy measure announced in the 2018-19 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook.
B47	Denial of deductibility for non-compliant payments	New policy measure announced in the 2018-19 Budget.
B50	Income tax exemptions for foreign government entities	Legislates/codifies the current Commissioner of Taxation administrative exemptions.
F1	Biosecurity imports levy	New policy measure announced in the 2018-19 Budget.

3.2.2 MODIFIED TAX BENCHMARK VARIATIONS

Table 3.3 reports tax benchmark variations that have been modified since the 2017 TES. Tax benchmark variations can be modified by, for example, a change to a benchmark or a revenue measure announced since the 2017 TES. Table 3.3 also lists significant reporting modifications made to tax benchmark variations since the 2017 TES.

Table 3.3: Modified tax benchmark variations

Code	Benchmark variation title	Reason for modification
A19	Medicare levy exemption for residents with taxable income below the tax free threshold	The Medicare levy low-income thresholds for singles, families and seniors and pensioners have been increased from the 2017-18 income year.
A24	Concessional taxation of non-superannuation termination benefits	From 1 July 2019, the age below which individuals can receive genuine redundancy and early retirement scheme payments will be aligned with the Age Pension qualifying age.
A41	Exemptions of certain veterans' pensions, allowances or benefits, compensation, and particular World War II-related payments for persecution	From 1 May 2018 the Government exempted certain Veteran Payments from income tax.
B52	Lower company tax rate	The company tax rate for eligible entities below \$50 million aggregated annual turnover has been further reduced from 2020-21 as part of the Government's fast-tracking of tax relief for small and medium sized businesses. Companies not eligible for the lower rate and those with \$50 million or greater aggregated annual turnover will continue to pay tax at a 30 per cent rate in each year.
B62	Unincorporated small business tax discount	The rate of the discount has been increased from 2020-21 as part of the Government's fast-tracking of tax relief for small businesses.
B63	Accelerated depreciation of fencing and fodder storage assets for primary producers	Primary producers can immediately deduct capital expenditure on fodder storage assets from 19 August 2018.
B77	Research and development — exemption of refundable tax offset	From 1 July 2018, the R&D refundable tax offset will be a premium of 13.5 percentage points above the claimant's company tax rate, with cash refunds capped at \$4 million per annum. Refundable R&D tax offsets from R&D expenditure on clinical trials will not count towards the cap. In addition, the R&D expenditure threshold will be increased from \$100 million to \$150 million per annum.
B78	Research and development — non-refundable tax offset	From 1 July 2018, the non-refundable R&D tax offset will be calculated using an R&D premium that provides multiple rates of support, ranging from 4 percentage points, to 6.5 percentage points, 9 percentage points, and then 12.5 percentage points above the claimant's company tax rate. The level of support increases with the intensity (that is, R&D expenditure as a proportion of total expenses) of the claimant's incremental R&D expenditure. In addition, the R&D expenditure threshold will be increased from \$100 million to \$150 million per annum.
B79	Small business simplified depreciation rules	The immediate deductibility threshold of \$20,000 has been extended to 30 June 2019.
C6	Deductibility of life and total permanent disability insurance premiums provided inside of superannuation	From 1 July 2019, the superannuation default insurance arrangements for members with accounts with balances under \$6,000, accounts deemed to be inactive, and new accounts for members under 25 years old will change from opt-out insurance to opt-in.

Table 3.3: Modified tax benchmark variations (continued)

Code	Benchmark variation title	Reason for modification
E4	Additional 10 per cent discount for affordable housing	This benchmark variation has been reclassified from personal income to CGT.
F5	Luxury car tax	Luxury car tax will not apply to cars re-imported into Australia following a refurbishment overseas, from 1 January 2019.
F16	Excise concession for alcohol producers	From 1 July 2019, the maximum excise refund will increase from \$30,000 to \$100,000 per financial year.
F20	Certain exemptions for diplomatic missions and foreign diplomats	The indirect tax concession scheme has been extended to Cote d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Hungary and Kazakhstan.
H7	Diplomats, diplomatic missions and approved international organisations	The indirect tax concession scheme has been extended to Cote d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Hungary and Kazakhstan.
H16	Health - medical aids and appliances	Feminine hygiene products were made GST-free from 1 January 2019.

3.2.3 DELETED TAX BENCHMARK VARIATIONS

Table 3.4 reports tax benchmark variations that have been deleted since the 2017 TES. Tax benchmark variations were deleted where the current taxation treatment is now in line with the benchmark tax treatment, or legislation to abolish the tax benchmark variation commenced before the *2018-19 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook* unless, for example, the tax benchmark variation continued to generate significant revenue forgone estimates in future years.

Table 3.4: Deleted benchmark variations

2017 Code	Benchmark variation title	Reason for deletion
B70	Accelerated depreciation for in-house software	The unenacted measure to provide the option for self-assessment of effective lives was reversed in the <i>2018-19 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook</i> .
H11	Importation threshold	On 1 July 2018, <i>Treasury Laws Amendment (GST Low Value Goods) Act 2017</i> came into effect, extending the GST to low value goods purchased by consumers and imported into Australia.

3.3. Guide to benchmark variation descriptions

Information is provided on all Australian Government tax benchmark variations in the following format.

Reference code																
A1 Title of the tax benchmark variation																
Health (\$m)		Functional category	Tax benchmark variation													
2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19		2019-20	2020-21								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8									
<i>Variation type:</i>							<i>2017 TES code:</i>									
<i>Estimate reliability:</i>							<i>* Category:</i>									
<i>Commencement date:</i>							<i>Expiry date:</i>									
<i>Legislative reference:</i>																

Reference codes use the following system:

- A Personal income
- B Business income
- C Retirement savings
- D Fringe benefits tax
- E Capital gains tax
- F Commodity and other indirect taxes
- G Natural resources taxes
- H Goods and services tax

Positive estimates indicate a positive tax benchmark variation — that is, where a tax provision reduces tax payable relative to the benchmark. Negative estimates indicate a negative tax benchmark variation — that is, a tax provision that increases tax payable relative to the benchmark.

The following codes apply where tax benchmark variation estimates are not quantified:

- nil
- .. not zero, but rounded to zero
- *
- nfp not for publication

3.4. Revenue forgone tax benchmark variations

PERSONAL INCOME

A1 Deduction for expenses incurred by election candidates

General public services - Legislative and executive affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction					<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A1
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium					<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985					<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 25-60, 25-65 and 25-70 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>

Certain expenses incurred by candidates contesting federal, state and territory government elections are tax deductible, irrespective of whether they are successful or not. For local government elections, candidates can deduct expenses of up to \$1,000 per election.

A2 Exemption of certain income earned by Australians working overseas

General public services - Foreign affairs and economic aid (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
45	45	50	45	45	45	45	45
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption					<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A2
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium					<i>Commencement date:</i>	1980 and 1986
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 23AF and 23AG of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>					<i>Expiry date:</i>	

Income earned by Australians working overseas for a continuous period of 91 days or more may be exempt from income tax if they are employed to work on certain approved overseas projects or if their foreign employment is directly attributable to:

- the delivery of Australia's overseas aid program by the individual's employer (from 1 July 2016, Australian government employees are ineligible for this exemption);
- the activities of the individual's employer in operating a developing country relief fund or a public disaster relief fund;
- the activities of the individual's employer being a prescribed institution that is exempt from Australian income tax;
- the individual's deployment outside Australia by an Australian government (or an authority thereof) as a member of a disciplined force; or
- an activity of a kind specified in the regulations.

This exemption may not apply where the foreign earnings are exempt from income tax in the foreign country.

A3 Exemption of income of certain visitors to Australia

General public services - Foreign affairs and economic aid (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A3	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 842-105 and 768-100 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Certain Australian-sourced income of some visitors to Australia (for example, visiting foreign government representatives and their entourages) is exempt from income tax. In addition, the official salary and foreign-sourced income of, for example, foreign government representatives visiting Australia when the Vienna Conventions on Consular or Diplomatic Relations do not apply, are exempt from income tax where their home countries provide a reciprocal exemption.

A4 Exemption of official remuneration of officials of prescribed international organisations

General public services - Foreign affairs and economic aid (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A4	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	0	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	<i>International Organisations (Privileges and Immunities) Act 1963</i>						

The official remuneration of officials of prescribed international organisations (such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) may be exempt from income tax as part of the privileges and immunities required under the terms of certain international agreements.

A5 Exemption from income tax and the Medicare levy for residents of Norfolk Island

General public services - General services (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
7	7
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A5	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>	30 June 2016	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 1A of Part III and Sections 251T and 251U of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i> Section 105-25 of the <i>Income Tax (Transitional Provisions) Act 1997</i>						

Prior to 1 July 2016, income earned by residents of Norfolk Island was exempt from income tax and the Medicare levy. Assets acquired by Norfolk Island residents before 24 October 2015 generally remain exempt from capital gains tax.

A6 Australian Defence Force personnel — exemption of certain allowances

Defence (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
55	35	40	45	40	40	40	40
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A6	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 51-5 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> Regulation 51-5.01 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Regulations 1997</i>						

Certain allowances payable to Australian Defence Force personnel are exempt from income tax. These include separation allowance, disturbance allowance, transfer allowance, deployment allowance and prescribed parts of rent allowance.

A7 Australian Defence Force personnel — exemption of compensation for lost deployment allowance

Defence (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
..	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A7	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1996				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 51-5 and 51-32 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Australian Defence Force personnel may receive compensation for the loss of deployment allowance where the deployment allowance ceases to be paid upon repatriation to Australia due to injuries sustained in a warlike situation. Such compensation payments are exempt from income tax.

A8 Australian Defence Force personnel — exemption of pay and allowances earned while on eligible overseas duty

Defence (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
55	70	65	65	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A8	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 23AD of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>						

Base pay and allowances made to Australian Defence Force personnel while on eligible overseas duty are exempt from income tax (provided they are not exempt from income tax under another provision of the income tax law).

A9 Australian Defence Force Reserve personnel — exemption of compensation for loss of pay and allowances

Defence (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
..
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A9	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1996				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 51-5 and 51-33 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Australian Defence Force Reserve personnel not engaged in continuous full-time service who are forced to resign due to injuries sustained while employed by the Reserves may receive compensation for the loss of pay and allowances. Such compensation payments are exempt from income tax.

A10 Australian Defence Force Reserve personnel — exemption of pay and allowances for part-time personnel

Defence (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
70	85	85	80	80	80	80	85
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A10	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 51-5 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

The pay and allowances made to part-time Australian Defence Force Reserve personnel are exempt from income tax.

A11 Exemption of some payments to Australian Federal Police and civilian personnel on service with an armed force of the United Nations

Defence (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
..
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A11	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Very Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 23AB of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>						

Australian Federal Police and civilian personnel contributed by Australia to a United Nations armed force may receive compensation for death, impairment or incapacity resulting from their service. Such compensation payments are exempt from income tax. Associated payments, including to the estate of a deceased civilian, may also receive tax relief.

Tax Benchmarks and Variations Statement

A12 Medicare levy exemption for current and veteran Australian Defence Force personnel and their relatives and associates

Defence (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
110	115	110	110	115	115	120	120
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A12	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - High						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 251T and 251U of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>						

A Medicare levy exemption applies to income earned by current and veteran Australian Defence Force personnel and certain others, for example, relatives and associates of Australian Defence Force personnel who are entitled to free medical treatment.

A13 Tax offsets for Australian Defence Force personnel serving overseas and for Australian Federal Police and civilians serving with United Nations forces

Defence (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Included in A45							
<i>Variation type:</i>	Offset				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A13	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>							
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 79B and 23AB(7) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>						

Australian Defence Force personnel who serve overseas in a locality specified by the Minister (because of its isolation and uncongenial nature), as well as civilian and Australian Federal Police personnel contributed by Australia to an armed force of the United Nations, may be eligible for a tax offset. The offset includes additional entitlements for individuals who maintain dependants.

A14 Denial of deductibility for HECS-HELP expenses

Education (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Denial of deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A14	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	3-	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1997				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 26-20 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Course fees and repayments for a Higher Education Contribution Scheme Higher Education Loan Program (HECS-HELP) place funded by the individual and some other loan schemes are not tax deductible, even for the proportion that relates to income earning activities.

A15 Exemption of income from certain educational scholarships, payments to apprentices or similar forms of assistance

Education (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Sections 51-10, 51-35, 51-40, 51-42 and 842-105 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>					

Scholarships and other education allowances paid to full-time students at a school, college or university may be exempt from income tax. Income derived as part of an Australian Government scheme to assist secondary education or the education of isolated children is exempt from income tax (excluding federal education, training or education entry payments provided under the *Social Security Act 1991*). A number of other exempt educational payments are listed in the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

A16 Threshold for the deductibility of self-education expenses

Education (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-3	-3	-3	-3	-3	-2	-2	-2
<i>Variation type:</i>		Denial of deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Low					
<i>Commencement date:</i>		Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Section 82A of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>					

Self-education expenses for the purpose of maintaining or improving skills or knowledge which the taxpayer uses in their current income earning activities are deductible. In certain circumstances taxpayers are not able to claim a deduction for the first \$250 of an education expense. However, taxpayers can use certain other self-education expenses that are non-deductible, such as child care costs, to reduce the \$250 no-claim threshold.

A17 Exemption of the Private Health Insurance Rebate

Health (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1,450	1,480	1,500	1,510	1,500	1,540	1,590	1,650
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Medium					
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1998				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Subdivision 61-G of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> Part 2-2 of the <i>Private Health Insurance Act 2007</i>					

The Private Health Insurance Rebate is exempt from income tax.

Tax Benchmarks and Variations Statement

A18 Medicare levy exemption for blind pensioners, sickness allowance recipients, persons not entitled to Medicare benefits and foreign government representatives

Health (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
235	240	250	255	265	270	280	285
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A18	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - High				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 251T and 251U of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>	

The income of certain prescribed persons is exempt from the Medicare levy. The list of prescribed persons includes recipients of specified payments made under the *Social Security Act 1991*, certain permanent residents who qualify for an exemption because of their absence from Australia, temporary residents whose home country does not have a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement with Australia and foreign government representatives.

A19 Medicare levy exemption for residents with taxable income below the low-income thresholds

Health (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1,725	1,890	1,905	1,935	1,960	1,990	2,015	2,045
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A19	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - High				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1986				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 7 of the <i>Medicare Levy Act 1986</i>	

Residents whose taxable income falls below prescribed thresholds are exempt from the Medicare levy, with the levy phased in once their income exceeds these thresholds. Different thresholds apply for individuals, families and seniors and pensioners.

A20 Medicare levy surcharge

Health (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-260	-250	-270	-300	-330	-360	-400	-440
<i>Variation type:</i>	Increased rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A20	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 1997				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 8B to 8D of the <i>Medicare Levy Act 1986</i> <i>A New Tax System (Medicare Levy Surcharge - Fringe Benefits) Act 1999</i>	

Individuals and couples who do not have a specified level of private health insurance and whose income exceeds certain thresholds are subject to an increased Medicare levy, known as the Medicare levy surcharge.

A21 Medicare levy surcharge lump sum payment in arrears tax offset

Health (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
..
<i>Variation type:</i>	Offset				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A21	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	High						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2005				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 61L of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Eligible taxpayers who incur a Medicare levy surcharge liability, or an increased liability, as a result of certain lump sum payments in arrears, for example, a Commonwealth education payment, receive concessional treatment in respect of their surcharge liability.

A22 Net medical expenses tax offset

Health (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
245	175	75	41	12	1	-	-
<i>Variation type:</i>	Offset				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A22	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>	30 June 2019	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 159P of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>						

The net medical expenses tax offset is available to a taxpayer whose eligible out-of-pocket medical expenses exceed certain thresholds. If eligible, the percentage of net medical expenses a taxpayer can claim is determined by their adjusted taxable income and family status. This offset is currently being phased out, with transitional arrangements for certain medical expenses.

A23 Concessional taxation of lump sum payments for unused recreation and long service leave

Social security and welfare (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
260	270	245	220	205	200	190	185
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A23	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1993				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivisions 83-A and 83-B of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

A maximum tax rate of 30 per cent plus the Medicare levy applies to lump sum payments in lieu of unused long service or annual leave which accrued before 18 August 1993, or which are made in circumstances of bona fide redundancy, invalidity or under an early retirement scheme.

A24 Concessional taxation of non-superannuation termination benefits

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
2,800	2,700	2,500	2,400	2,300	2,200	2,100	2,000
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate					<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A24
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985					<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 82 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 Division 82 of the <i>Income Tax (Transitional Provisions) Act 1997</i> Subdivision 83-C of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Non-superannuation termination payments, known as employment termination payments (ETPs), are taxed differently to lump sums paid from untaxed superannuation funds.

From 1 July 2019, the age below which persons can receive genuine redundancy and early retirement scheme payments will be increased from 65 years of age to be aligned with the Age Pension qualifying age. Genuine redundancy and early retirement scheme payments are tax-free up to a limit, and amounts in excess of this limit are taxed as an ETP.

A25 Concessional taxation of unused long service leave accumulated prior to 16 August 1978

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
60	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate					<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A25
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - High						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985					<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subsection 83-80(1) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

A reduced tax rate applies to lump sum payments for unused long service leave which accrued prior to 16 August 1978. Five per cent of such payments is included in the taxpayer's assessable income and is subject to tax at marginal rates.

A26 Exemption for National Disability Insurance Scheme amounts

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
20	40	200	640	1,110	2,550	3,020	3,320
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption					<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A26
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Very Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2013					<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 26-97, 40-235, and 52-180 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Payments and benefits provided under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), whether directly or otherwise, to NDIS participants for approved reasonable and necessary supports are exempt from income tax.

A27 Exemption of Child Care Assistance payments

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1,245	1,365	1,480	1,475	1,855	1,825	1,920	2,045
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A27	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2007				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 52-150 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

The Child Care Subsidy, introduced on 2 July 2018 to replace the child care fee assistance provided by Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate payments, is exempt from income tax. The Child Care Rebate and Child Care Benefit were also exempt from income tax.

A28 Exemption of disaster relief payments

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
15	10	25	1	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A28	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2008				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 11-15, 51-30 and 52-40 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Certain payments made to victims of disasters, such as Australian Government disaster recovery payments, are exempt from income tax.

A29 Exemption of the Schoolkids Bonus

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
320	290	280	140	10	-	-	-
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A29	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2012				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 52-150 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

The Schoolkids Bonus is exempt from income tax. It has been abolished with the last instalment paid in July 2016.

A30 Beneficiary Tax Offset

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
55	75	85	90	90	85	80	75
<i>Variation type:</i>	Offset				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A30	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 160AAA of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>	

Taxpayers who receive certain social security benefits and allowances may be eligible for the Beneficiary Tax Offset, which ensures that people whose only income during the year is from the benefit or allowance will not pay any tax.

A31 Dependency tax offsets

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
120	7	6	5	5	5	5	5
<i>Variation type:</i>	Offset				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A31	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 61-A of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>				<i>Expiry date:</i>		

Taxpayers who maintain a dependant unable to work due to carer obligations or disability may receive a tax offset to reduce their income tax liability.

A range of dependency tax offsets, including the invalid relative, parent, parent-in-law, housekeeper, housekeeper (with child), child-housekeeper and child-housekeeper (with child) tax offsets, were consolidated into a single dependent (invalid and carer) tax offset from 1 July 2012. Separately, the dependent spouse tax offset was abolished from 1 July 2014.

A32 Release from particular tax liabilities in cases of serious hardship

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
40	41	69	44	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A32	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 340 in Schedule 1 to the <i>Tax Administration Act 1953</i>						

An individual taxpayer can be released from a tax liability where payment of the liability would cause serious hardship. This release from tax liability acts like a tax exemption.

A33 Seniors and pensioners tax offset

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
890	1,000	950	950	930	890	890	890
<i>Variation type:</i>	Offset				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A33	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1996				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 160AAAA and 160AAAB of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>						

The seniors and pensioners tax offset is available to taxpayers who receive certain taxable pensions and payments, for example, the Age Pension and the Defence Force Income Support Allowance. It is also available to taxpayers who are of Age Pension age but who do not receive the Age Pension because of the income or assets tests.

A34 Seasonal Labour Mobility Program

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A35	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2012				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	<i>Income Tax (Seasonal Labour Mobility Program Withholding Tax) Act 2012</i>						

Workers employed under the Seasonal Labour Mobility Program are subject to a final withholding tax of 15 per cent.

A35 Working holiday makers

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-	-	..	-145	-150	-150	-150	-150
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A36	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 January 2017				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	<i>Income Tax Rates Amendment (Working Holiday Maker Reform) Act 2016</i>						

From 1 January 2017, a 15 per cent income tax rate applies to the Australian taxable income of working holiday makers up to \$37,000, with ordinary tax rates applying to taxable income above this threshold.

Whether a working holiday maker is a resident for tax purposes depends on their individual circumstances.

For non-residents the 15 per cent rate is concessional relative to the benchmark, under which they would be taxed at 32.5 per cent from their first dollar of income. This results in a positive tax benchmark variation.

Tax Benchmarks and Variations Statement

In contrast, the legislated treatment constitutes a negative tax benchmark variation for resident working holiday makers. Under the benchmark, this group would have access to a tax-free threshold of \$18,200.

A36 Exemption of foreign termination payments

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
..
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A37	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2007				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 83-D of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Termination payments from foreign employment are non-assessable and non-exempt income where the taxpayer is a foreign resident. Where the taxpayer is an Australian resident for some of the period to which the termination payment relates, the payment will be non-assessable and non-exempt if it was received in consequence of the termination of a period of foreign employment or engagement for the purposes of section 23AF or section 23AG, the payment relates only to that period of employment or engagement and the payment is not exempt from income tax under the law of the foreign country. This does not apply if the payment is a superannuation benefit or a pension or annuity.

A37 Foreign income exemption for temporary residents

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
75	85	100	95	90	95	95	95
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A38	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2006				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 768-R of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Foreign source income of temporary residents is generally non-assessable and non-exempt, and capital gains and losses are also generally disregarded for income tax purposes. Interest paid to foreign lenders by temporary residents is exempt from withholding tax.

A38 Income tax exemption for Australian staff of the Asian Development Bank

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A39	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2005				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Regulation 6 of the <i>Asian Development Bank (Privileges and Immunities) Regulations 1967</i>	

The income of Australian resident officers of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is exempt from tax. This exemption is part of the broader arrangement with the ADB that facilitates the day-to-day running of the Australian office which services the needs of the Pacific Island countries.

A39 Exemption of certain income support benefits, pensions or allowances

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1,040	1,050	1,080	1,110	1,120	1,170	1,180	1,190
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A40	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivisions 52-A, 52-E and 52-F of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>				<i>Expiry date:</i>		

Certain social security payments are partly or fully exempt from income tax. These include: certain pensions; benefits; allowances and repatriation pensions paid under the *Social Security Act 1991*, for example, Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment; certain amounts of Commonwealth education or training payment; and certain parts of payments under the ABSTUDY scheme.

A40 Exemption of Family Tax Benefit payments

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
2,150	2,240	1,970	1,920	1,940	1,960	1,980	2,000
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A41	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Commencement date:</i>	2000	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 52-150 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>				<i>Expiry date:</i>		

Family Tax Benefit payments are exempt from income tax.

A41 Exemptions of certain veterans' pensions, allowances or benefits, compensation, and particular World War II-related payments for persecution

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
610	620	630	610	560	560	550	550
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A42	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivisions 52-B and 52-C and Section 768-105 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Repatriation pensions, certain payments under the *Veterans Entitlements Act 1986* and *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*, payments under the *Australian Participants in British Nuclear Tests and British Commonwealth Occupation Force (Treatment) Act 2006*, certain foreign source World War II payments and compensation provided for legal advice to beneficiaries under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* are wholly or partly exempt from income tax.

Australian participants in the British nuclear tests of the 1950s and Australian veterans of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force that receive medical treatment using the Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card are exempt from the Medicare levy and Medicare levy surcharge.

A42 Denial of deduction of travel expenses for residential rental property

Housing and community amenities (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-	-	-	-	-160	-180	-200	-200
<i>Variation type:</i>	Denial of deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A43	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2017				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 26-31 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

From 1 July 2017, travel expenses related to inspecting, maintaining or collecting rent for a residential rental property are disallowed. Expenses incurred in engaging third parties such as real estate agents for property management services will remain deductible.

This results in a negative tax benchmark variation as under the benchmark these expenses would be deductible.

A43 Denial of deductions for vacant land

Housing and community amenities (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-	-	-	-	-	-	-25	-25
<i>Variation type:</i>	Denial of deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	New	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2019						
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Legislation has not yet been introduced						

From 1 July 2019, deductions will be denied for some taxpayers for expenses associated with holding vacant land. Expenses for which deductions are denied that would ordinarily be a cost base element may be included in the cost base of the asset for capital gains tax purposes.

Deductions will continue to be available where land is held by the owner or related entities to carry on a business, where there is a substantial building or structure on the land, or where a residential premise has been built on the land and is available for rent. Furthermore, deductions will continue to be available for land held by corporate tax entities, managed investment trusts, superannuation plans (other than self-managed superannuation funds), and public unit trusts.

This results in a negative tax benchmark variation as under the benchmark these expenses would be deductible.

A44 Exemption of payments made under the First Home Owners Grant Scheme

Housing and community amenities (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
185	190	180	190	185	185	190	190
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A44	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 January 2000						
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	A New Tax System (Commonwealth State Financial Arrangements) Act 1999 Appendix A, Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations Appropriation (Economic Security Strategy) Act (No. 2) 2008-09 and relevant state legislation.						

Payments made under the First Home Owners Grant Scheme are exempt from income tax.

A45 Zone tax offsets

Housing and community amenities (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
295	235	145	150	155	160	160	165
<i>Variation type:</i>	Offset				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A45	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 79A of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>				<i>Expiry date:</i>		

Note: estimates include tax benchmark variations A45 and A13

Taxpayers who live in prescribed remote areas of Australia are eligible for a tax offset. Eligibility and the amount of the tax offset varies depending on the taxpayer's location.

From 1 July 2015, 'fly-in fly-out' workers whose normal residence is not in a zone are excluded from the offset. If their normal residence is in a different zone to the one in which they work, they receive the offset applicable to the zone in which they normally reside.

A46 Income averaging for authors, inventors, performing artists, production associates and sportspersons

Recreation and culture (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
30	35	40	40	45	50	50	55
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A46	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - High				<i>Commencement date:</i>	1998	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 405 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>				<i>Expiry date:</i>		

Authors, composers, artists, inventors, performing artists, production associates and sportspersons, whose income can fluctuate significantly between income years, may be eligible for an income averaging scheme that reduces their overall tax liability.

A47 Income tax exemption of certain Prime Minister's prizes

Recreation and culture (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
..
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A47	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	High				<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2006	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 51-60 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>				<i>Expiry date:</i>		

The Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History, the Prime Minister's Prize for Science and the Prime Minister's Literary Award are exempt from income tax.

A48 Non-commercial losses deductions allowed for certain taxpayers with an adjusted taxable income under \$250,000

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A48	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	3+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 35 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Under the benchmark, losses arising from non-commercial business activities generally cannot be claimed as a deduction against other assessable income.

Under the non-commercial loss rules, individuals carrying on a business and who have an adjusted taxable income of less than \$250,000 may apply losses from a business activity against their other assessable income in that year if they satisfy one of four statutory tests.

This treatment results in some business activities that are non-commercial in nature being treated as commercial. Allowing losses from these activities to be offset against other assessable income gives rise to a tax benchmark variation.

A49 Non-commercial losses exception rules for primary producers and artists

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
15	15	20	10	10	10	10	10
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A49	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 January 2000				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subsection 35-10(4) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

Under the benchmark, losses arising from non-commercial business activities generally cannot be claimed as a deduction against other assessable income. Where a business activity is objectively determined to be commercial in nature under the non-commercial loss provisions, the Commissioner of Taxation allows the taxpayer to apply those losses against their other income.

However, individuals that carry on a primary production or professional arts business, with income from other sources of less than \$40,000 (except net capital gains), are exempt from the non-commercial losses provisions.

A proportion of individuals carrying on primary production or professional arts businesses that access this exemption and apply losses from their business activity against their other income will nonetheless be carrying on an uncommercial business activity.

A50 Tax concessions for employee share schemes income

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption, Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A50	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	3+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 January 1995				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 83A of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Discounts on shares and rights acquired under an employee share scheme are generally included in a taxpayer's assessable income in the year the shares or rights are acquired. However, there are a range of concessions available. An upfront tax exemption of \$1,000 for eligible schemes is available to taxpayers earning less than \$180,000 and a deferral of tax is available where there is a "real risk of forfeiture".

On 1 July 2015, additional tax concessions for employee share schemes took effect. The taxing point for rights now generally occurs when the rights are exercised (converted to shares). There is also a tax deferral (for rights) or exemption (for shares) on the discount component of employee share schemes provided at a small discount to employees of eligible start-up companies.

A51 Tax deferral advantage arising from personal after-tax contributions to a pension or annuity

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A51	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 27H of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>						

The value of a pension or annuity may consist in part of contributions made from the recipient's after-tax income. This part of the income stream is not taxed again when it is returned in the form of pension or annuity payments. A tax benchmark variation arises because this part of the pension or annuity is apportioned evenly over the term of the income stream, providing a tax deferral advantage.

A52 Union dues and subscriptions to business associations deduction

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A52	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 25-55 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Union dues and subscriptions to trade, business or professional associations are specifically tax deductible up to a maximum amount of \$42. This deduction is available in addition to any work related expense deduction.

A53 Denial of deductions for illegal activities

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Denial of deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A53	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1-	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 1999 (bribery), 30 April 2005 (illegal activities)				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 26-52, 26-53 and 26-54 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Deductibility is denied for a loss or outgoing that is a bribe to a public official, including a foreign public official.

Deductions are also denied for expenditure to the extent it is incurred in the furtherance of, or directly in relation to, activities in respect of which the taxpayer has been convicted of an indictable offence. Indictable offences are those punishable by imprisonment for at least one year.

A54 Increased tax rates for certain minors

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-6	-1	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4	-4
<i>Variation type:</i>	Increased rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A54	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - High						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Part III Division 6AA of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>						

Higher rates of taxation apply to the unearned income of certain minors (for example, those classed as not being in a full-time occupation). Unearned income includes dividend, interest, rent, royalties and other income from property. Further, minors are unable to use the low income tax offset to reduce the tax payable on unearned income.

A55 Limit plant and equipment depreciation deductions to outlays actually incurred by investors

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-	-	-	-	-35	-95	-110	-130
<i>Variation type:</i>	Denial of deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A55	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2017				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 40-27 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997	

From 1 July 2017, plant and equipment depreciation deductions are limited to outlays actually incurred by investors in residential real estate properties. Plant and equipment items are usually mechanical fixtures or those which can be 'easily' removed from a property such as dishwashers and ceiling fans. Acquisitions of existing plant and equipment items will be reflected in the cost base for capital gains tax purposes for subsequent investors. Plant and equipment forming part of residential investment properties as of 9 May 2017 (including contracts already entered into at 7:30PM (AEST) on 9 May 2017) will continue to give rise to deductions for depreciation until either the investor no longer owns the asset, or the asset reaches the end of its effective life.

This results in a negative tax variation relative to the benchmark, which reflects the general principle that individual taxpayers are entitled to a deduction for expenses incurred in earning assessable income.

A56 Part-year tax free threshold

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20
<i>Variation type:</i>	Increased rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A56	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - High				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 January 1986				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 16 to 20 of the Income Tax Rates Act 1986	

Taxpayers who become an Australian resident for the first time, or cease to be an Australian resident, do not receive the full value of the statutory tax-free threshold. From 1 July 2012, they are able to access a tax-free threshold of at least \$13,464, plus a pro-rated share of \$4,736 corresponding to the number of months in the year that they are a resident for tax purposes.

A57 Philanthropy - deduction for gifts to deductible gift recipients

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1,180	1,310	1,200	1,315	1,880	1,510	1,610	1,715
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A57	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 30 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Gifts of cash and property (subject to certain conditions) of a value of \$2 or more to deductible gift recipients can be claimed as a deduction by donors.

A58 Philanthropy - deduction for gifts to private ancillary funds

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
225	705	370	670	360	360	360	360
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A58	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 October 2009				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Item 2 of the table in Section 30-15 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Private ancillary funds are funds established by businesses, families and individuals solely for the purpose of disbursing funds to charitable or philanthropic trusts (or for establishing such trusts). Donations of cash and property (subject to certain conditions) of a value of \$2 or more to private ancillary funds that have deductible gift recipient status are tax deductible.

A59 Car expenses - alternatives to the logbook method

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A59	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	3+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 28 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

An alternative method to the logbook method (which is based on actual expenditure) is available to value car expense deductions. The 'cents per kilometre' method is available up to a maximum of 5,000 business kilometres. Prior to 1 July 2015, the 'one third of actual expenses' method and '12 per cent of original value' method were available where business use exceeded 5,000 kilometres.

A60 Tax offset on certain payments of income received in arrears

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
7	8	9	15	16	17	18	19
<i>Variation type:</i>	Offset				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A60	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 1986				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 159ZR to 159ZRD of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>	

Individual taxpayers who receive lump sum payments of certain income, for example, salary and wages, which accrued in earlier income years may be entitled to a tax offset.

A61 Exemption for personal injury annuities

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
..
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A61	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Commencement date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 54 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>				<i>Expiry date:</i>		

Certain annuities provided to personal injury victims under structured settlements and orders are exempt from income tax. This allows personal injury victims who would be eligible to receive large tax-free lump sum compensation payments to receive all or part of their compensation in the form of a tax-free annuity or annuities.

A62 Exemption of post-judgment interest awards in personal injury compensation cases

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A62	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Commencement date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 51-57 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>				<i>Expiry date:</i>		

Interest accruing on a judgment debt arising in personal injury compensation cases, which relates to the period between the original judgment and when the judgment is finalised, is exempt from income tax.

A63 Low-value depreciating assets - immediate deduction

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A63	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2001				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subsections 40-25(1) and 40-80(2) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

An immediate deduction is available for depreciating assets costing \$300 or less where those assets are used mostly to earn non-business income.

BUSINESS INCOME

B1 Denial of deductions by businesses for political donations

General public services - Legislative and executive affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Denial of deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B1	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1-	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2008				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 26-22 and Subsection 30-242(3A) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Business taxpayers are prevented from claiming deductions for gifts or contributions to political parties, independent members and independent candidates.

B2 Local government bodies income tax exemption

Other purposes - General purpose inter-governmental transactions (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1,480	1,620	1,660	1,890	2,150	2,450	2,790	3,170
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B2	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Item 5.1 in the table in Section 50-25 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

Local government bodies and municipal corporations are exempt from income tax. This exemption includes the local governing bodies in Norfolk, Cocos (Keeling) and Christmas Islands.

B3 Exemptions for prescribed international organisations

General public services - Foreign affairs and economic aid (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B3	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1963				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 6 of the <i>International Organisations (Privileges and Immunities) Act 1963</i>						

The income of certain prescribed international organisations is exempt from income tax. Interest and dividends received by such organisations are also exempt from withholding tax. Prescribed international organisations include the United Nations, the World Trade Organisation, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and various United Nations specialised agencies.

B4 Interest withholding tax and dividend withholding tax exemptions for overseas charitable institutions

General public services - Foreign affairs and economic aid (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1971				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Paragraph 128B(3)(aa) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>					

Interest and dividends received by certain overseas charitable institutions are exempt from the interest and dividend withholding tax, respectively. This exemption only applies where the institutions are exempt from tax in their home country.

B5 Investment Manager Regime

General public services - Foreign affairs and economic aid (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1 July 2011				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Subdivision 842-I of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>					

The Investment Manager Regime (IMR) provides that, subject to meeting the appropriate tests, foreign funds that invest via an Australian fund manager are eligible to access IMR concessions in relation to gains and losses on the disposal of assets, and can disregard certain Australian income tax consequences. The effect of the IMR is that when a foreign investor invests in Australia through a foreign fund or an independent Australian fund manager it will generally be in the same tax position as if it had invested directly. The IMR does not apply to Australian residents.

B6 Reduced withholding tax under international tax treaties

General public services - Foreign affairs and economic aid (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
500	610	660	690	720	760	800	840
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption, Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Low				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		2008				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		<i>International Tax Agreements Act 1953</i>					

Tax treaties reduce or eliminate double taxation caused by the exercise of source and residence country taxing rights on cross border income flows. Under Australia's tax treaties, certain dividends, interest and royalties attract reduced withholding tax rates. For some treaties, these include interest withholding tax exemptions for financial institutions and governments and dividend withholding tax exemptions where dividends are paid to companies with controlling interests in the companies paying the dividends, provided that certain integrity measures are satisfied.

B7 Income tax exemption for persons connected with certain US Government projects in Australia

Defence (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Section 23AA of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>					

The profit and remuneration of United States contractors, armed forces members and their associated employees, or others connected with certain approved United States Government projects in Australia are exempt from Australian income tax, where the income is subject to tax in the United States. Projects to which the exemption applies include the North West Cape Naval Communication Station and the Joint Defence Space Research Facility.

B8 Concessional tax treatment of offshore banking units

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
240	285	315	295	295	295	295	295
<i>Variation type:</i>		Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Medium				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1992				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Division 9A of Part III and Section 128GB of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>					

Income (other than capital gains) derived by an offshore banking unit from eligible offshore banking activities is taxed at a concessional rate of 10 per cent. Interest paid by an offshore banking unit on qualifying offshore borrowings, and gold fees paid by an offshore banking unit on certain offshore gold borrowings, are exempt from withholding tax. From 1 July 2015, the list of eligible offshore banking activities has been updated to better target the regime and address integrity concerns.

B9 Exemption for foreign branch profits from income tax

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1991				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Section 23AH of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>					

In general, income from a business carried on by an Australian company through a permanent establishment (branch) in a foreign country is exempt from income tax. The exempt income broadly comprises operating profits and capital gains but does not include passive or other tainted income where the branch fails an active income test.

B10 Exemption from accruals taxation system for certain transferor trusts

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1991				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Section 102AAT of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>					

Under the transferor trust rules, the transferor would normally be subject to the accruals taxation system. However, the rules do not apply in relation to certain transfers to family, discretionary or non-discretionary trusts, or to certain transfers made before the transferor commenced being a resident. Transferor trust rules apply to Australian residents who have transferred property or services to a non-resident trust estate.

B11 Exemption from accruals taxation system for controlled foreign companies

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1991				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Sections 385 and 432 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>					

The accruals taxation system normally applies to income derived by controlled foreign companies (CFCs). However, most tainted income derived by CFCs in listed countries is exempt from the accruals taxation system (applied to the attributable taxpayer) as it is generally comparably taxed. An exemption also applies to CFCs that derive 95 per cent or more of their income from genuine business activities.

B12 Exemption from interest withholding tax on certain securities

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
2,150	1,910	2,310	2,360	2,360	2,360	2,360	2,360
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Medium				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Section 128F and 128FA of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>					

Certain publicly offered debentures and debt interests are eligible for exemption from interest withholding tax, where those debentures and debt interests are issued in Australia by a State or Territory, the Commonwealth, a resident Australian company, a non-resident company operating through a permanent establishment, or certain public unit trusts. The exemption is not available where it involves certain dealings between associated entities.

B13 Exemption of inbound non-portfolio dividends from income tax

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
680	690	520	570	620	620	620	620
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B13	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1991				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 768-5 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

Non-portfolio dividends are dividends paid to a company where that company has a 10 per cent or greater voting interest in the company paying the dividend. These dividends are exempt from income tax where they are paid to an Australian resident company by a company resident in a foreign country.

B14 Interest withholding tax concession on interest payments by financial institutions

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
15	15	15	10	10	10	10	10
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B14	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>Commencement date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 160ZZZJ of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>				<i>Expiry date:</i>		

The notional interest paid by an Australian branch of a foreign bank on borrowings from the foreign bank attracts a reduced effective rate of withholding tax of 5 per cent relative to the benchmark rate of 10 per cent.

B15 International tax – concessional rate of final withholding tax on certain distributions by clean building managed investment trusts to foreign residents

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Included in B81							
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B15	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>					<i>Commencement date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	2012 Section 12-385 of Schedule 1 to the <i>Taxation Administration Act 1953</i> Regulation 34 of the <i>Taxation Administration Regulations 2017</i>				<i>Expiry date:</i>		

Distributions of Australian source net income (other than dividends, interest and royalties) paid to foreign residents by Australian managed investment trusts that only hold energy efficient buildings that commenced construction on or after 1 July 2012 are subject to a final withholding tax of 10 per cent for residents of countries with which Australia has an information exchange arrangement. The concessional withholding tax rate on other income earned by a MIT, such as rent, to eligible foreign residents is generally 15 per cent.

B16 Threshold exemption for thin capitalisation

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B16	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2001				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 820-35 and 820-37 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

The thin capitalisation regime is an integrity measure designed to ensure Australian and foreign owned multinational entities do not allocate an excessive amount of debt to their Australian operations.

Taxpayers will not be subject to the thin capitalisation regime if their debt deductions and those of their associates do not exceed the threshold amount of \$250,000 for income years commencing prior to 1 July 2014 and \$2 million for later income years. Outward investing entities are also excluded from the thin capitalisation regime if at least 90 per cent of their assets are Australian assets.

B17 Security agency transaction exemption

Defence (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B17	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2005				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 850 of Schedule 1 to the <i>Taxation Administration Act 1953</i>						

The heads of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the Australian Secret Intelligence Service and the Australian Signals Directorate have the power to declare that Commonwealth tax laws do not apply to a specified entity in relation to a specified transaction. This ensures that tax authorities do not need to obtain information that should remain secret in the interests of national security.

B18 Not-for-profit private health insurers income tax exemption

Health (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
105	110	100	115	115	115	115	115
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B18	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium – Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Item 6.3 of the table in Section 50-30 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

The income of private health insurers covered by the *Private Health Insurance Act 2007* is exempt from income tax if the insurer is not operated for the gain or profit of its individual members.

B19 Deductibility for entertainment provided without charge to those in need

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B19	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	16 December 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 32-50 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

The cost of entertainment, such as food and drink, provided in the course of carrying on a business is usually denied as a deduction. This rule does not apply where the entertainment is provided without charge to members of the public who are in need.

B20 Exemption for payments for mining on Aboriginal land

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B20	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	8 July 1997				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 59-15 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Under the benchmark, payments in respect of mining rights are generally assessable to taxpayers. However, certain mining payments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons or certain distributing bodies are exempt from income tax.

B21 Life insurance investment income taxation concession

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption, Offset, Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B21	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 26AH and 160AAB of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>						

Some life insurance investment policyholders receive a concessional rate of tax because the policyholders' undistributed income is taxed at the company rate. This ensures that a reversionary bonus (the income distributed from a life insurance policy) on which the life insurance company has paid tax is not subject to double taxation in the hands of policyholders.

B22 Superannuation Guarantee amnesty

<u>Social security and welfare (\$m)</u>							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-	-	-	-	-	26	-	-
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	New	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>	23 May 2019	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	24 May 2018				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	<i>Treasury Laws Amendment (2018 Superannuation Measures No. 1) Bill 2018</i>	

Employers who do not comply with their requirements under the *Superannuation Guarantee Act 1992* to make superannuation guarantee (SG) contributions on behalf of their employees become liable for the SG Charge, which includes a nominal interest component. Payments of SG Charge are not tax deductible, in contrast to ordinary SG payments.

For 12 months from 24 May 2018, the SG amnesty allows employers with historical SG shortfalls to claim a tax deduction when they come forward voluntarily to repay their employees' SG and nominal interest, if these payments are made during the amnesty period. Historical SG shortfalls which are voluntarily disclosed to the ATO but paid after the amnesty period ends (for example, through a payment plan) will not be tax deductible.

The SG amnesty also provides remission of the penalties which would usually apply as part of the SG Charge. Employers who fail to come forward during the amnesty and are subsequently caught with historical SG shortfall will face a minimum 100 per cent penalty. Different treatment of penalties are not included as part of the tax benchmark variation estimates, this item only accounts for deductibility of payments made during the amnesty period.

B23 Exemption of foreign currency gains and losses from certain low balance accounts

<u>Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)</u>							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B22	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+/-	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2003				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	<i>Subdivision 775-D of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Taxpayers with low balance bank accounts or credit card accounts denominated in a foreign currency may elect to disregard gains and losses attributable to changes in exchange rates (made in respect of withdrawals and payments on these accounts) for tax purposes. Under the benchmark, taxpayers would have included the change of value of their accounts denominated in foreign currency (as an equivalent Australian dollar amount) when they make a withdrawal from or payment to the account in their assessable income or as an allowable tax deduction.

This option is available to all taxpayers other than financial institutions. Accounts with a combined credit or debit balance that does not exceed the foreign currency equivalent of A\$250,000 will generally be eligible.

B24 Infrastructure – enhanced loss utilisation for designated projects

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B23	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2013				<i>Expiry date:</i>	30 June 2017	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 272-100 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i> Section 165-35 and Division 415 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Income tax losses of a designated infrastructure project are uplifted at the government bond rate and exempt from the loss recoupment tests.

Designated infrastructure project status is conferred by the Chief Executive Officer of Infrastructure Australia on privately financed infrastructure of national significance based on a range of criteria, including a global capital expenditure cap of \$25 billion over the period from Royal Assent of the enabling legislation to 30 June 2017.

As at 1 July 2017, this concession was discontinued.

B25 Off-market share buy-backs

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Offset				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B24	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	4+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1990				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 16K of Part III and 177EA of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>						

The proceeds paid to shareholders who participate in an off-market share buy-back are split into a dividend component and a capital component. The dividend component of the buy-back proceeds may be fully franked. This allows companies that undertake off-market share buy-backs to distribute franking credits to participating shareholders beyond the level that would normally be available. Treating part of the proceeds as a dividend makes off-market share buy-backs more attractive to low marginal tax rate taxpayers. This facilitates streaming of franking credits to those shareholders that can obtain the most benefit. The tax benchmark variation is equal to the difference in tax payable, had those franking credits been distributed uniformly to all shareholders.

B26 Tax exemption for National Rental Affordability Scheme incentives

Housing and community amenities (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
15	32	45	62	82	84	86	87
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B25	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Very Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2008				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 380 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

The National Rental Affordability Scheme offers tax and cash incentives to providers of new dwellings on the condition that they are rented to low and moderate income households at a rate that is at least 20 per cent below market rates. The tax benchmark variation arises as the incentives are exempt from income tax.

The scheme is no longer open to new providers.

B27 Film industry concessions

Recreation and culture (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
69	50	62	58	43	66	56	54
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B26	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2001				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 376 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

Film production companies incurring expenditure on certain productions in Australia may be eligible for refundable tax offsets. The tax offsets are the location offset, the producer offset and the post, digital and visual effects offset.

As the refundable tax offset is an expense item, it does not appear as a tax benchmark variation in its own right. However, a tax benchmark variation arises because payments made under this arrangement are exempt from tax.

B28 Exemption from the tax shelter prepayments measure for certain passive investments

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Accelerated write-off				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B27	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	11 November 1999				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 82KZME of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>						

The benchmark treatment of tax shelter prepayments is that they are deductible over the period in which the services are provided. However, a prepayment in relation to investments in shares, units, rental property, eligible insurance premiums, and certain other arrangements entered into before 11 November 1999 or agreements to which product rulings apply, is immediately deductible.

B29 Prepayment rule for small business taxpayers and non-business expenditure by individuals

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Accelerated write-off				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B28	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	25 May 1988				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 82KZM of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>						

The benchmark tax treatment of prepayments is that they are generally deductible over the period in which services are provided. However, prepayments for qualifying services by eligible small businesses and non-business prepayments by individual taxpayers are immediately deductible.

B30 The 10-year rule for prepayments

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Accelerated write-off				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B29	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1988				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subsection 82KZL(1) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>						

A prepayment for services to be provided over a period of 10 years or more (for example, life membership) is evenly deducted over the first 10 years of that period. The benchmark treatment of prepayments is that they are deductible over the period of the expenditure. The tax benchmark variation allows deductions to be spread over a shorter period and consequently it allows greater deductions in the first 10 years than the benchmark treatment.

B31 Accelerated write-off for forestry managed investment schemes

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Accelerated write-off				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1 July 2007				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Division 394 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>					

Under the benchmark, expenditure on forestry managed investment schemes is generally deductible over the period where benefits are provided. However, investors in forestry managed investment schemes are able to claim immediate upfront deductions for their expenditure on such schemes, provided that, amongst other requirements, at least 70 per cent of the expenditure is directly related to developing forestry.

B32 Deferral of profit from early sale of double wool clips

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Section 385-135 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>					

The benchmark tax treatment of profits from business is they are assessable in the year in which they are derived. However, as a consequence of drought, fire or flood, primary producers carrying on a sheep grazing business in Australia may conduct shearing in advance. In these circumstances, a woolgrower may elect to have the assessment of the profit from the advanced shearing deferred to the following income year.

B33 Deferral or spreading of profit from the forced disposal or death of livestock

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Subdivision 385-E of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>					

The benchmark tax treatment of proceeds from the disposal of stock by a primary producer is that such amounts are assessable income in the year in which they are derived. However, primary producers who receive income from the forced disposal or death of livestock can elect to defer this income and use it to reduce the cost of replacement livestock within the disposal year and:

- the next five income years; or

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- the next 10 income years if the forced disposal was in relation to the control of bovine tuberculosis.

Alternatively, primary producers can elect to spread such amounts over the disposal year and the next four income years.

B34 Farm Management Deposit scheme

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
170	240	250	500	370	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B33
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Medium				<i>* Category</i>	3+
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1999				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Division 393 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>					

Under the benchmark, income from primary production is generally assessable in the year in which it is derived. However, the Farm Management Deposit (FMD) scheme allows primary producers (with no more than \$100,000 of non-primary production income) to defer the recognition of assessable income where the income is deposited into an FMD account.

Primary producers are able to claim deductions for deposits made into their FMD account in the income year of deposit, with subsequent withdrawals being assessed in the income year of withdrawal. The FMD scheme has a maximum limit on deposits made prior to 1 July 2016 of \$400,000 and \$800,000 on deposits from 1 July 2016.

B35 Income tax averaging for primary producers

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
195	190	195	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B34
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		High				<i>* Category</i>	3+
<i>Commencement date:</i>		Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Division 392 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>					

The benchmark tax treatment is that income tax is paid on the taxable income of a taxpayer for an income year at their applicable rate of tax. However, primary producers can elect to pay tax at a tax rate based on their average income earned over the previous five income years to smooth their income tax liability. Primary producers that choose to opt out of income tax averaging are able to re-enter the system after 10 income years.

B36 Spreading of insurance income for loss of timber or livestock

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i> Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i> B35			
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i> Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i> 2+			
<i>Commencement date:</i> Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>			
<i>Legislative reference:</i> Section 385-130 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>							

The benchmark tax treatment is that insurance proceeds are consideration for the item that was lost or destroyed and may be assessable to the taxpayer. However, primary producers who receive insurance payouts in respect of trees lost because of fire, or livestock lost due to natural disasters, can elect to spread the income equally over five income years, resulting in a deferral of income tax.

B37 Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-5	..	-5	10	-10	-10	-15	-10
<i>Variation type:</i> Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i> B36			
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i> Medium - Low							
<i>Commencement date:</i> 1 April 2010				<i>Expiry date:</i>			
<i>Legislative reference:</i> Section 59-65 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>							

Under the benchmark treatment, payments under the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program would be assessable income, and the associated expenditure deductible or included in the cost base for calculating a capital gain. Taxpayers can instead choose to make payments received under eligible Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program agreements free of income tax (including capital gains tax), with expenditures funded by such payments not being deductible.

B38 Valuation of livestock from natural increase

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i> Discounted valuation				<i>2017 TES code:</i> B37			
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i> Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i> 2+			
<i>Commencement date:</i> Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>			
<i>Legislative reference:</i> Subdivision 70-C of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>							

Under the benchmark, the value of the trading stock is generally determined with reference to the actual cost of production.

However, several different methods are available for determining the value of animals held as trading stock acquired by natural increase. These methods may produce a value different to the actual cost of production, creating a tax benchmark variation.

B39 Denial of depreciation deduction for car value above the car limit

Transport and communication (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-130	-140	-150	-170	-180	-190	-200	-210
<i>Variation type:</i>	Denial of deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B38	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2001				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 40-230 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

If the value of a car used for income-producing purposes exceeds a certain amount ('car limit'), the amount of depreciation deductions that can be claimed is capped at the 'car limit'. This represents a negative tax benchmark variation as the full value of the car should be depreciated under the benchmark.

B40 Shipping – investment incentives

Transport and communication (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption, Accelerated write-off, Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B39	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Very Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2012				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 51-100 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	
	Subsection 128B(3) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>					Item 10 of the table to subsection 40-102(4) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	
	Subsection 40-285(5) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Under the benchmark, vessels are depreciated over their effective lives, shipping income and gains on the sale of vessels are generally assessable, and royalty withholding tax is applicable on payments made for the lease of vessels.

Tax incentives are provided to encourage investment in the Australian shipping industry and to facilitate Australian competition on international routes. The investment incentives that may be available include accelerated depreciation of eligible vessels via a cap of 10 years on the effective life of those vessels, an income tax exemption for ship operators on qualifying shipping income, roll-over relief from income tax on the sale of an eligible vessel, and an exemption from royalty withholding tax for payments made for the lease of eligible vessels.

B41 Shipping – refundable tax offset for employers of qualifying Australian seafarers

Transport and communication (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
2	-	4	3	2	2	2	2
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B40	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2012				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 61-N of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

A refundable tax offset is available to qualifying companies that employ qualifying Australian seafarers. As the refundable tax offset is an expense item, it does not appear as a tax benchmark variation in its own right. However, a tax benchmark variation arises because payments made under this arrangement are exempt from tax.

B42 Deductions for boat expenditure

Other economic affairs - Tourism and area promotion (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B41	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2007				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 26-47 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Under the benchmark, expenses connected to income earning activity, or a business are generally deductible. However, taxpayers who cannot demonstrate they are carrying on a business using a boat may only claim deductions for expenses incurred in boating activities up to the level of income generated in that year from their boating activity. These taxpayers can also carry forward any excess deductions from their boating activity and apply them against income from that boating activity in future income years.

B43 Capital gains tax concession for carried interests paid to venture capital partners

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B42	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2002				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 104-255 and 118-21 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> <i>Venture Capital Act 2002</i>						

Venture capital fund managers may be paid a performance-based share of partnership profits by investors. Such performance payments are 'carried interests'. Under the benchmark, these entitlements are generally taxable income of the partner as they accrue. However, under the law, an entitlement to receive a carried interest is a capital

gains tax event in the hands of venture capital fund partners and is not treated as income. Consequently, taxation of carried interests is deferred until a capital gain is realised. Individual partners may also be eligible for the 50 per cent discount on their carried interest.

B44 Clarification of the debt or equity treatment of perpetual subordinated debt

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B43	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2001				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 974 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>				Division 974 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Regulations 1997</i>		

Issuers can defer payments on Upper Tier 2 perpetual cumulative subordinated notes because of clauses on 'profitability, insolvency or negative earnings conditions'. In these circumstances, these notes can be classified as debt interests for tax purposes. As such, distributions on the notes may be tax deductible. Under the benchmark debt-equity rules, the notes would be equity interests and distributions will not be tax deductible.

B45 Deduction for borrowing expenses

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B44	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 1997				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 25-25 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

A taxpayer is able to claim a deduction (spread over the shorter of the term of the loan or five years) for borrowing expenses incurred for borrowing money that is used for the purpose of producing assessable income. Borrowing expenses incurred in these circumstances would otherwise be capital in nature and included in the cost base of the asset.

B46 Deduction for certain co-operatives repaying government loans

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B45	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 117 and 120 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>						

Under the benchmark, a repayment of the principal on a loan is generally not deductible. However, co-operative companies whose primary object is the acquisition from their shareholders of commodities or animals for disposal or distribution can claim a deduction for repayments of certain Australian and state government loans.

The deduction is allowed only if 90 per cent or more of the value of the company is held by shareholders who supply the company with the commodities or animals.

B47 Denial of deductibility for non-compliant payments

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Denial of deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	New	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1-	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2019				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 26-105 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Under the benchmark, a deduction is generally allowed to entities such as businesses for the payment of salary and wages, or payment for services made to another entity such as a contractor.

From 1 July 2019, a deduction will be denied for these payments where an entity fully fails to comply with their withholding and reporting obligations, unless certain exemptions apply.

B48 Family trust loss rules

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B46	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	3+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	9 May 1995				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 272-D of Schedule 2F to the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>						

The benchmark treatment is that trust losses and debt deductions are quarantined in the trust.

However, the family trust rules provide a concession to the individual specified in a family trust election (the test individual) of a family trust, and their family group, by allowing the transfer of the benefit of losses and certain debt deductions to members of the family trust.

B49 Income tax exemption for prescribed entities

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B47	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	4+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 50 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

The income of various prescribed entities is exempt from income tax. Prescribed entities include, amongst other things:

- Commonwealth, state and territory public authorities;
- public and not-for-profit hospitals;
- trade unions and employer associations;
- industry-specific not-for-profit associations predominantly devoted to promoting the development of aviation, tourism, agriculture, manufacturing or industry;
- registered charities, public educational institutions, scientific research funds, and community service entities; and
- associations and clubs established for the encouragement of sports, music, art or literature.

B50 Income tax exemptions for foreign government entities

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-	-	-	-	-	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	New	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	3+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 880 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> (if passed)						

Currently, the Commissioner of Taxation exempts investment income and gains derived by foreign governments and foreign government agencies from tax where the monies invested are and will remain government monies and the income is derived from a non-commercial activity.

Subject to passage of the Treasury Laws Amendment (Making Sure Foreign Investors Pay Their Fair Share of Tax in Australia and Other Measures) Bill 2018, from 1 July 2019 a legislative framework for the existing tax concession for foreign governments will apply. This will limit the exemption to portfolio-like investments in certain assets.

B51 Income tax exemptions for foreign superannuation funds

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B48	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1981				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 128D and paragraph 128B(3)(jb) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>						

Interest income and dividends received by foreign superannuation funds are exempt from income tax. This income is also exempt from interest and dividend withholding taxes if it is exempt from income tax in the country in which the foreign superannuation fund resides.

Subject to passage of the Treasury Laws Amendment (Making Sure Foreign Investors Pay Their Fair Share of Tax in Australia and Other Measures) Bill 2018, from 1 July 2019 the withholding tax exemption will be limited to interest, dividend and non-share dividend income derived from an entity in which a foreign superannuation fund has a portfolio-like interest.

B52 Lower company tax rate

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-	200	1,300	1,400	1,800	1,900	3,400	4,100
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B49	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2015				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subsection 23(2) of the <i>Income Tax Rates Act 1986</i>						

Companies that meet eligibility criteria and have aggregated turnover below annually defined thresholds face a company tax rate below the headline company rate. The corporate tax rate for base rate entities will be reduced from 27.5 per cent to 26 per cent in 2020-21 before being cut to 25 per cent for the 2021-22 income year.

B53 Managed investment trusts — election to allow capital gains tax to be the primary code for disposals of certain assets

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B50	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	3+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2008				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 275 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

From the 2008-09 income year, eligible managed investment trusts (MITs) can make an irrevocable election to treat gains and losses on disposals of certain assets (primarily shares, units and real property) on capital account, that is, subject to the capital gains tax regime. If an eligible MIT does not make an irrevocable election to have capital account treatment, then gains and losses on disposals of shares and units will be treated as ordinary income on revenue account.

B54 Philanthropy - income tax exemption for not-for-profit companies

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
..
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B51	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985						
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subsection 23(6) of the <i>Income Tax Rates Act 1986</i>						

The rate of income tax payable by a not-for-profit company that has a taxable income not exceeding \$416 in a given income year is nil. Income tax is payable at a rate of 55 per cent on income greater than \$416 until the not-for-profit company's effective company tax rate reaches its applicable company tax rate. When its taxable income has exceeded that level (for example, in 2017-18 this would be above \$832 for base rate entities or \$915 for other companies), the applicable company tax rate is applied on the not-for-profit company's entire taxable income.

B55 Philanthropy - refund of franking credits for certain income tax exempt philanthropic entities

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
740	1,160	1,115	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Rebate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B52	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	High				<i>* Category</i>	4+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 207-E of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Generally, entities that are not subject to Australian tax cannot benefit from franking credits on distributions from Australian companies. However, entities that are endorsed as income tax exempt charities or income tax exempt deductible gift

recipients are able to claim a refund of franking credits on distributions from Australian companies.

B56 Small business immediate deduction for professional expenses

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-	-	10	10	10	10	10	10
<i>Variation type:</i>	Accelerated write-off				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B53	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2015				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 40-880 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

From 1 July 2016, small business entities with an aggregated annual turnover of less than \$10 million (\$2 million before 1 July 2016) can immediately deduct a range of professional expenses associated with starting a new business, such as professional, legal and accounting advice. These professional costs would otherwise be deductible over a five year period, which is the benchmark treatment.

B57 Tax exemption for small and medium credit unions

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
..
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B54	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 6H and 23G of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>	
						Subsection 23(7) of the <i>Income Tax Rates Act 1986</i>	

The benchmark tax treatment is that interest derived from loans is assessable and taxed at the applicable tax rate for the entity. However, recognised small credit unions are exempt from tax on interest derived from loans to members.

Recognised medium credit unions are subject to an effective tax rate based on a sliding scale according to their level of taxable income.

B58 Tax incentives for early stage investors

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-	-	-	-	25	30	30	30
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption, Offset				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B55	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2016				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 360 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

Under the benchmark a tax benchmark variation arises because the tax offset reduces the amount of tax that would otherwise be paid.

Eligible investors in qualifying early-stage innovation companies receive a 20 per cent non-refundable carry forward tax offset based on their investment, capped at a total offset amount of \$200,000 per investor in each income year. Non sophisticated investors are also subject to an annual \$50,000 investment cap. Eligible investors also receive a ten year exemption from capital gains tax on their investment provided a minimum twelve month holding period has been met.

B59 Tax incentives for Venture Capital Limited Partnerships and Early Stage Venture Capital Limited Partnerships

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption, Offset				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B56	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	NA	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2002 and 2006				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Venture Capital Act 2002 Sections 26-68 (ESVCLPs), 51-52 and 51-54 and Subdivisions 118-F and 118-G (ESVCLPs and VCLPs) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

The benchmark tax treatment is that gains and income from investments are generally assessable. However, foreign investors are generally exempt from tax on capital gains derived in respect of their investments in Venture Capital Limited Partnerships. Similarly, eligible Australian and foreign investors in Early Stage Venture Capital Limited Partnerships (ESVCLPs) are generally exempt from tax on income, revenue and capital gains derived by the ESVCLP.

From 1 July 2016, additional tax incentives are available to ESVCLPs and their investors including a non-refundable carry-forward tax offset of up to 10 per cent for capital invested in new ESVCLPs.

B60 Treatment of distributions on certain term subordinated notes

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B57	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2001				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 974 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> Division 974 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Regulations 1997</i>						

Issuers can defer payment on certain Tier 2 regulatory capital (subordinated notes) because of 'insolvency or capital adequacy conditions'. In these circumstances, the notes can be classified as debt interests for tax purposes. As such, distributions on the notes may be tax deductible. Under the benchmark debt-equity rules, the notes would be equity interests and distributions will not be tax deductible.

B61 Treatment of finance leases

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B58	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1936				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Divisions 240, 242 and 250 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

A finance lease is, in substance, equivalent to a loan from the lessor to the lessee to finance the purchase of the leased asset. The lessor (financier) acquires the leased asset at the request of the lessee (borrower) and leases the asset to the lessee. On expiry of the lease, legal ownership of the asset is transferred to the lessee at minimal or no cost. During the term of the lease, while the lessor is the legal owner of the leased asset, the lessee has effective economic ownership through having control, use and enjoyment of the asset.

Except where specific provisions apply, for example, Divisions 240 and 250 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*, finance leases are taxed as leases rather than as loans. Given their economic substance, finance leases should be taxed as a loan from the lessor to the lessee to acquire the leased asset under the benchmark. That is, the interest payments should be deductible to the lessee and assessable to the lessor, and the lessee be able to claim depreciation deductions for the user cost of the leased asset.

B62 Unincorporated small business tax discount

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-	-	250	350	350	350	400	500
<i>Variation type:</i>	Offset				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B59	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2015				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 328-F of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Under the benchmark, business income is generally fully assessable to the taxpayer. However, individual taxpayers with business income from an unincorporated small business that has aggregated annual turnover less than \$5 million are eligible for an 8 per cent tax discount on the income tax payable on that business income from 1 July 2016. This discount rate increases to 13 per cent in 2020-21 and to 16 per cent in 2021-22 and later income years. The discount is capped at \$1,000 per individual for each income year and is delivered as a non-refundable tax offset.

Previously in the 2015-16 income year the aggregated annual turnover threshold was less than \$2 million and the tax discount rate was 5 per cent.

B63 Accelerated depreciation of fencing and fodder storage assets for primary producers

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-	3	30	50	65	95	100	85
<i>Variation type:</i>	Accelerated write-off				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B60	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	12 May 2015				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 40-10 and Subdivision 40-F of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

Under the benchmark, fences and fodder storage assets are depreciated over their effective lives. However, primary producers can immediately deduct capital expenditure on fencing assets, and from 19 August 2018 they can immediately deduct capital expenditure on fodder storage assets such as silos and hay sheds, used to store grain and other animal feed.

Prior to 19 August 2018, primary producers could depreciate the cost of fodder storage assets over three years.

B64 Accelerated write-off for expenditure on water facilities for primary producers

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
5	10	45	45	40	35	35	30
<i>Variation type:</i>	Accelerated write-off				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B61	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 40-F of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

Note: estimates include tax benchmark variations B64, B66 and B67

Under the benchmark, expenditure on water facilities is generally deductible over the effective life of the asset. However, primary producers can immediately deduct capital expenditure on water facilities, such as dams, tanks and pumps, from 12 May 2015. Previously this expenditure was deductible over three years. The expenditure must be incurred primarily for conserving or conveying water for use in primary production.

B65 Accelerated write-off for horticultural plants

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Accelerated write-off				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B62	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1995				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 40-F of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Under the benchmark, capital expenditure on assets generally forms part of the cost of the asset or is deductible over the effective life of the asset. However, capital expenditure incurred in establishing horticultural plants can be written off using an

accelerated depreciation regime, with deductions available from the first commercial season. The cost of establishing plants with an effective life of less than three years can be written off in the first commercial year. Plants with an effective life of three or more years can be depreciated over a shorter period than their effective life using the maximum write-off periods set out in the legislation.

B66 Accelerated write-off for irrigation water providers

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Included in B64							
<i>Variation type:</i>	Accelerated write-off		<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B63			
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>							
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2004		<i>Expiry date:</i>				
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 40-F of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Under the benchmark, expenditure on landcare and water facilities is generally deductible over the effective life of the asset. However, certain irrigation water providers can claim an immediate deduction for capital expenditure on landcare activities and water facilities.

B67 Accelerated write-off for landcare operations

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Included in B64							
<i>Variation type:</i>	Accelerated write-off		<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B64			
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>							
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985		<i>Expiry date:</i>				
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 40-G of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Under the benchmark, capital expenditure on landcare operations is generally deductible over the effective life of the asset. However, primary producers and business users of rural land can claim an immediate deduction for capital expenditure on landcare operations, such as constructing a levee or prevention of land degradation.

B68 Accelerated write-off for telephone lines and electricity connections

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Accelerated write-off		<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B65			
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable		<i>* Category</i>	1+			
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985		<i>Expiry date:</i>				
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 40-G of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Capital expenditure incurred in connecting a telephone line to a primary production property and capital expenditure incurred in connecting or upgrading mains electricity to a property on which a business is conducted can be deducted in equal instalments over 10 years, rather than over the effective life of the asset under the benchmark.

B69 Closing stock valuation options for horse breeding stock

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction, Discounted valuation				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B66	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1992				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 70-60 and 70-65 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Under the benchmark, horse breeding trading stock would be allocated a closing stock value of either cost, market value or replacement value. However, taxpayers can elect to write down the closing value of horse breeding stock that is at least 3 years old, at up to 25 per cent of the cost of sires per annum and up to 33½ per cent of the cost of mares per annum, on a prime cost basis.

B70 Exploration and prospecting deduction

Mining, manufacturing and construction (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-450	-450	-400	-400	-400	-400	-350	-300
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B68	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1968				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 40-25 and 40-730, and Subsections 40-80(1) and 40-95(12) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Expenditure on exploration or prospecting for the purpose of mining (including for petroleum) and quarrying is immediately deductible. In addition, the cost of a depreciating asset is immediately deductible if the taxpayer first uses the asset for exploration or prospecting for minerals (including petroleum) or quarry materials obtainable by mining operations, subject to certain conditions.

From 14 May 2013, the cost of a mining, quarrying or prospecting right or information first used for exploration is generally deductible over its effective life or 15 years, whichever is shorter. However, realignment and farm-in, farm-out arrangements remain immediately deductible.

B71 Statutory effective life caps

Transport and communication (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Accelerated write-off				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B69	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	4+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2002				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 40-102 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Statutory effective life caps provide a write-off period for some assets, shorter than the effective life determined by the Commissioner of Taxation. Statutory caps exist for assets such as aircraft, trucks, truck trailers, buses, tractors and harvesters.

B72 Absence of depreciation recapture for certain assets

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B67	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1982				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 43 and Section 110-45 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Certain buildings and structures receive deductions that are not recaptured by balancing adjustment on disposal of the asset. This tax benchmark variation is offset by reductions in the capital gains tax cost base of the assets concerned.

B73 Capital works expenditure deduction

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
780	920	990	1,010	1,080	1,150	1,230	1,320
<i>Variation type:</i>	Accelerated write-off				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B71	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	21 August 1979				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 43 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

A taxpayer can claim a deduction for capital works expenditure over a period that is generally shorter than the effective life of the asset. Capital works can be deducted at either 2.5 per cent (over 40 years) or 4 per cent (over 25 years) of the construction expenditure, depending on when construction started and how the capital works are used.

B74 Depreciation balancing adjustment roll-over relief

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B72	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1952				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 40-340 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

'Balancing adjustments' arise when the disposal value of a depreciating asset exceeds its depreciated value. The tax liability for such balancing adjustments can be deferred where the balancing adjustment arises from certain changes in ownership, such as disposal as a result of a marriage breakdown. The transferee is taken to acquire the asset at the written down value and must depreciate the asset in the same way as the transferor.

B75 Depreciation pooling for low value assets

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Accelerated write-off				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B73	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 40-E of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Assets costing less than \$1,000 can be written off at the declining balance rate of 37.5 per cent through a low value asset pool. Once a taxpayer elects to create a low value pool, all assets that cost less than \$1,000 are subject to the declining balance rate treatment.

Eligible small businesses can access the Small Business Simplified Depreciation Rules (B79).

B76 Depreciation to nil value rather than estimated scrap value

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B74	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1936				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 40 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Taxpayers are entitled to write-off the cost of depreciating assets to zero value, rather than to the estimated disposal value of the asset. Any gain on disposal of the asset is assessed as income at the time of disposal through a balancing adjustment. This results in a tax deferral.

B77 Research and development — exemption of refundable tax offset

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-360	-410	-440	-465	-485	-490	-505	-530
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption, Denial of deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B75	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2011				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 355 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

As a refundable tax offset is an expense item, it generally does not appear as a tax benchmark variation. However, under the benchmark a tax benchmark variation arises because payments made under this arrangement are exempt from tax. Additionally, companies that claim the research and development (R&D) refundable tax offset are unable to claim ordinary tax deductions for the R&D expenditure. The absence of these deductions constitutes a negative tax benchmark variation.

For income years beginning from 1 July 2016, the R&D refundable tax offset is available to companies with a turnover of less than \$20 million at a rate of 43.5 per cent for the first \$100 million of expenditure on eligible R&D activities. A refundable tax offset at the prevailing company tax rate applies to the amount of the expenditure that exceeds \$100 million. For previous income years, the refundable tax offset rate is 45 per cent for all eligible expenditure. If a taxpayer's income tax liability is reduced to zero, any unused refundable tax offset amount can be applied to reduce other tax liabilities. Any residual unused amounts can be refunded as cash to the company.

In the 2018-19 Budget, it was announced that from 1 July 2018, the R&D refundable tax offset will be a premium of 13.5 percentage points above the claimant's company tax rate, with cash refunds capped at \$4 million per annum. R&D tax offsets that cannot be refunded will be carried forward as non-refundable tax offsets to future income years. Refundable R&D tax offsets from R&D expenditure on clinical trials will not count towards the cap. In addition, the R&D expenditure threshold will be increased from \$100 million to \$150 million per annum. These changes are subject to the passage of legislation.

B78 Research and development — non-refundable tax offset

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
970	830	780	700	650	360	280	350
<i>Variation type:</i>	Offset				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B76	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2011				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 355 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

Under the benchmark a tax benchmark variation arises because the tax offset reduces the amount of tax that would otherwise be paid.

For income years beginning from 1 July 2016, the R&D non-refundable tax offset is available to companies at a rate of 38.5 per cent for the first \$100 million of expenditure on eligible R&D activities. A non-refundable tax offset at the prevailing company tax rate applies to the amount of the expenditure that exceeds \$100 million. For previous income years, the non-refundable tax offset rate is 40 per cent for all eligible expenditure.

In the 2018-19 Budget, it was announced that from 1 July 2018, the non-refundable R&D tax offset will be calculated using an R&D premium that provides multiple rates of support, ranging from 4 percentage points, to 6.5 percentage points, 9 percentage points, and then 12.5 percentage points above the claimant's company tax rate. The level of support increases with the intensity (that is, R&D expenditure as a proportion of total expenses) of the claimant's incremental R&D expenditure. In addition, the R&D expenditure threshold will be increased from \$100 million to \$150 million per annum. These changes are subject to the passage of legislation.

The non-refundable tax offset can be carried forward to be applied against future income tax liabilities. If a company's income tax liability is zero, unused offset amounts cannot be applied to reduce other tax liabilities.

B79 Small business simplified depreciation rules

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-200	-300	500	500	400	300	-600	-600
<i>Variation type:</i>	Accelerated write-off				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B77	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2007				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 328-D of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

Under the benchmark, depreciating assets are generally written off over their effective life. However, small business entities with an aggregated annual turnover of less than \$10 million (\$2 million before 1 July 2016) are able to access concessional depreciation arrangements for business assets.

Under the concessions, small business entities can immediately deduct assets that cost less than a threshold amount. From 1 July 2012 to before 1 January 2014 the threshold was \$6,500. From 1 January 2014 to 7.30pm (AEST) on 12 May 2015 the threshold was \$1,000. Between 7.30pm (AEST) on 12 May 2015 and 30 June 2018 the threshold is \$20,000. In the 2018-19 Budget, the Government announced the extension of the \$20,000 threshold for a further 12 months to 30 June 2019. The threshold is normally \$1,000.

In addition to the immediate write-off, assets above the threshold are depreciated through simplified pooling arrangements at a rate of 30 per cent per year (15 per cent in the first year). The general small business pool can also be immediately deducted at the end of the income year if its value is less than the immediate write-off threshold (before deducting depreciation for the year).

B80 Small business simplified trading stock rules

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B78	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2007				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 328-E of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Under the benchmark, changes in the value of trading stock are generally accounted for at the end of the income year. However, small business entities with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$10 million (\$2 million before 1 July 2016) may choose to use a simplified trading stock regime. Under this regime, in certain circumstances, changes in the value of trading stock do not have to be accounted for and stocktaking is not required at the end of the income year.

B81 International tax – concessional rate of final withholding tax on certain distributions by Australian managed investment trusts to foreign residents

General public services - General services (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
220	300	305	275	270	270	270	270
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B79	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2008				<i>Regulation 34 of the <i>Taxation Administration Regulations 2017</i></i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 12-H of Schedule 1 to the <i>Taxation Administration Act 1953</i>						

Note: estimates include tax benchmark variations B15 and B81

Distributions of Australian source net income (other than dividends, interest and royalties) by Australian managed investment trusts to foreign residents are subject to a final withholding tax. Since 1 July 2012, a 15 per cent rate has applied for residents of countries with which Australia has an information exchange arrangement (contained in Regulation 34 of the *Taxation Administration Regulations 2017*). Subject to passage of the Treasury Laws Amendment (Making Sure Foreign Investors Pay Their Fair Share of Tax in Australia and Other Measures) Bill 2018, from 1 July 2019, access to this concession would be narrowed. Before 1 July 2008, distributions of Australian source net income (other than dividends, interest and royalties) were subject to a 30 per cent non-final withholding tax.

B82 Exception to equity interest test for certain related party at call loans

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	B80	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2005				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 974 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Related party at call loans, which would generally give rise to an equity interest, are taken to be debt interests for companies that have an annual turnover of less than \$20 million. Therefore, payments on the loan are deductible debt interest whereas they are treated as a non-deductible equity interest under the benchmark.

RETIREMENT SAVINGS

C1 Concessional taxation of capital gains for superannuation funds

Social security and welfare (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
470	620	1,400	1,650	1,700	1,800	1,950	2,150
<i>Variation type:</i>	Reduction in taxable value				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	C1	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1999				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Paragraph 115-10(b) and subparagraph 115-100(b)(i) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

In general, income earned by a superannuation fund is taxed at 15 per cent, to the extent the income arises during the accumulation phase. Two-thirds of any nominal capital gain made from a capital gains tax event occurring on or after 21 September 1999 is included in the assessable income of a fund, provided the fund has held the asset for at least 12 months. This effectively results in capital gains being taxed at a 10 per cent rate.

C2 Concessional taxation of employer superannuation contributions

Social security and welfare (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
15,500	16,850	15,950	16,950	17,750	19,100	20,450	22,700
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption, Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	C2	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Divisions 290, 291, 293 and 295 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

Employer contributions, up to the concessional contributions caps, are included in the assessable income of a superannuation entity and taxed at a concessional rate of 15 per cent. For individuals whose combined income and concessional contributions exceed \$250,000, the effective rate is 30 per cent.

Before 1 July 2017, the effective rate was 30 per cent for individuals whose combined income and concessional contributions exceeded \$300,000.

C3 Concessional taxation of personal superannuation contributions

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
790	1,050	1,050	780	1,450	1,400	1,650	1,750
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption, Concessional rate					<i>2017 TES code:</i>	C3
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985					<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Divisions 290, 291, 293 and 295 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Subject to the concessional contributions caps, deducted personal superannuation contributions to eligible superannuation funds are taxed at a concessional rate of 15 per cent. For individuals whose combined income and concessional contributions exceed \$250,000, the effective rate is 30 per cent.

Before 1 July 2017, only individuals earning less than 10 per cent of their income as an employee were able to make deductible personal superannuation contributions up to the concessional cap to eligible superannuation funds. Before 1 July 2017, for individuals whose combined income and concessional contributions exceeded \$300,000 the effective rate was 30 per cent.

C4 Concessional taxation of superannuation entity earnings

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
11,600	15,150	14,950	17,200	19,550	20,150	21,100	22,650
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption, Concessional rate					<i>2017 TES code:</i>	C4
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985					<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 295 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

The tax rate on earnings for complying superannuation entities is 15 per cent (accumulation phase) or nil where the earnings are derived from assets which are used to meet current pension liabilities (retirement phase). Complying superannuation entities are entitled to refunds of excess imputation credits attached to dividends payable to them.

A complying superannuation entity is one that has elected to be regulated and has complied with certain prudential requirements in the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993*.

Since 1 July 2017, the value of assets transferred to the retirement phase has been limited by the general transfer balance cap.

C5 Concessional taxation of unfunded superannuation

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
540	550	570	590	560	580	610	630
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption, Offset, Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	C5	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Part 3-30 and Subdivision 320-D of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> Part 3-30 of the <i>Income Tax (Transitional Provisions) Act 1997</i>						

In the case of unfunded superannuation, no employer contributions are made until the benefit is provided on the member's retirement. The appropriate benchmark treatment of these amounts is taxation at personal rates on receipt by the member.

Unfunded superannuation lump sums are taxed in the same way as funded superannuation lump sums from untaxed funds (see C11). Similarly, unfunded superannuation income streams are taxed in the same way as funded superannuation income streams from untaxed funds (see C10). The tax treatment of a death benefit paid to a dependant as an income stream depends on the age of the fund member and the dependant. If either was aged 60 or over at the time of death, then the taxable component of payments to the dependant will be taxed at marginal rates with a 10 per cent tax offset. If both were under age 60 at the time of death, the taxable component of the pension will be taxed at the dependant's marginal rate and will become eligible for the 10 per cent offset once the dependant reaches age 60.

Since 1 July 2017, where an individual's income stream from an unfunded scheme exceeds \$100,000 per annum, the amount in excess of the threshold does not receive the 10 per cent tax offset.

C6 Deductibility of life and total permanent disability insurance premiums provided inside of superannuation

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1,800	1,970	2,080	2,260	2,540	2,180	2,460	2,870
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction, Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	C6	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	15 March 2007				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 295-G <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Death, total and permanent disability (TPD) and income protection policies can be provided inside of superannuation and premiums paid out of members' superannuation balances. These premiums are deductible (either partially or fully) for the fund. Therefore the income used to purchase members' premiums is effectively exempt from tax.

By contrast, death and TPD life insurance policies that are purchased by individuals outside of the superannuation system are not tax deductible, and must be purchased with after-tax income.

Tax Benchmarks and Variations Statement

This item estimates the difference between the effective tax exempt status of income used to purchase death and TPD insurance in superannuation, and the tax that would be paid on this income by the individual policy holder had it been purchased outside of superannuation.

As income protection policies purchased outside the superannuation system are tax deductible, a tax benchmark variation does not arise when such policies are provided inside superannuation.

From 1 July 2019, the Government's Protecting Your Super Package is expected to reduce the amount of insurance premiums paid within superannuation.

C7 Small business capital gains retirement exemption

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
410	490	550	580	610	630	670	700
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	C7	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1997				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 152-D of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Under the benchmark, realised capital gains are generally assessable to taxpayers at their applicable tax rate in the year they arise. However, eligible small businesses can exclude gains arising from the sale of active small business assets, where the proceeds of the sale are used for retirement. There is a lifetime limit of \$500,000 in respect of any one individual.

C8 Superannuation measures for low-income earners

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
200	220	210	210	210	220	220	220
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption, Reduction in taxable value				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	C8	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Co-contribution introduced 1/7/2003. Low income superannuation contribution introduced 1/7/2012. Low income superannuation tax offset introduced 1/7/2017				<i>Expiry date:</i>	Low income superannuation contribution ended 30/6/2017. Co-contribution is ongoing.	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	<i>Superannuation (Government Co-Contribution for Low Income Earners) Act 2003</i> Subdivision 290-D of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

The Superannuation Co-contribution and the Low Income Superannuation Tax Offset are government payments that increase the retirement savings of eligible low-income taxpayers. The Low Income Superannuation Tax Offset has been in effect since 1 July 2017; a Low Income Superannuation Contribution applied up to that date. The payments are expense payments and are not included in the Tax Benchmarks and Variations Statement. The amounts indicated represent the impact of these payments not being taxed.

In addition, a tax offset is available for post-tax contributions to the superannuation account of a low-income spouse.

C9 Tax on excess non-concessional superannuation contributions

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-29	-7	-7	-28	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption, Reduction in taxable value				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	C9
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Medium				<i>* Category</i>	2-
<i>Commencement date:</i>		2006. Excess contributions made after 1 July 2013 can be withdrawn				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Division 292 of the <i>Income Tax (Transitional Provisions) Act 1997</i> Division 292 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> <i>Superannuation (Excess Non-Concessional Contributions Tax) Act 2007</i>					

Contributions above the non-concessional caps may be subject to the excess contributions tax levied at the top marginal tax rate including the Medicare levy (and temporary budget repair levy between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2017). In addition, since 1 July 2017, non-concessional contributions made by individuals with a total superannuation balance of \$1.6 million or more may be subject to the excess contributions tax. Non-concessional contributions above the non-concessional cap can be withdrawn, in which case, they are not subject to the excess contributions tax. On 1 July 2017, the non-concessional contributions cap was also lowered from \$180,000 to \$100,000.

C10 Tax on funded superannuation income streams

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-370	-360	-340	-320	-330	-310	-340	-300
<i>Variation type:</i>		Increased rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	C10
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Medium					
<i>Commencement date:</i>		Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Divisions 301 and 302 and Part 3-30 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> <i>Part 3-30 of the Income Tax (Transitional Provisions) Act 1997</i>					

Superannuation income stream payments from a taxed source are tax free for persons aged 60 and over. The taxable component of superannuation income stream payments from a taxed source to persons below age 60 is included in assessable income, and the tax paid on this amount creates a negative tax benchmark variation because benefits are untaxed under the superannuation benchmark. A death benefit paid from a taxed source as a reversionary pension from a deceased who was aged under 60 to a beneficiary aged under 60 is taxed, and also creates a negative tax benchmark variation.

Some offsets reduce the amount of tax paid, for instance a 15 per cent tax offset applies to the taxed element of the taxable component of superannuation income stream benefits paid to persons aged between preservation age and 60, and to disability income stream benefits paid to persons of any age.

The taxable component of superannuation income stream payments from an untaxed source is included in the recipient's assessable income. A 10 per cent tax offset applies to the taxable component of pension payments for persons aged 60 and over.

Where an individual's income stream from an untaxed source exceeds \$100,000 per annum, the amount in excess of the threshold does not receive the 10 per cent tax offset.

Proceeds from life insurance claims that are taken as an income stream are taxed as a death benefit. Proceeds from total and permanent disability (TPD) insurance claims that are taken as an income stream are taxed as a disability benefit.

C11 Tax on funded superannuation lump sums

Social security and welfare (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-390	-440	-500	-540	-610	-670	-730	-800
<i>Variation type:</i>	Increased rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	C11	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Legislative reference:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Divisions 301, 302 and 307 and Part 3-30 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>				<i>Part 3-30 of the <i>Income Tax (Transitional Provisions) Act 1997</i></i>		

The tax raised on lump sum payments results in a negative tax benchmark variation because the benchmark treatment of savings applies marginal personal income tax rates to contributions and earnings, while benefits are generally tax free.

A taxable component of lump sums paid from a taxed fund is tax free for a person aged 60 or over. For a person aged between preservation age and 60, it is tax free up to the low rate cap (indexed) and up to 15 per cent thereafter. For a person below preservation age a maximum tax rate of 20 per cent applies.

The taxable component of lump sums paid from untaxed funds to persons aged 60 or over is taxed at a maximum rate of 15 per cent up to the untaxed plan cap (indexed) and at the top marginal rate thereafter. For persons aged between preservation age and 60, the tax rate is a maximum rate of 15 per cent up to the low rate cap, a maximum of 30 per cent above the low rate cap but below the untaxed plan cap and at the top marginal rate thereafter. For persons under preservation age the tax rate is up to 30 per cent up to the untaxed plan cap and at the top marginal rate thereafter.

Special arrangements apply to lump sums paid to certain temporary residents who have departed Australia, while death benefit payments to non-dependants are taxed at a maximum rate of 15 per cent where paid from a taxed source and a maximum rate of 30 per cent from an untaxed source.

Lump sums paid from life insurance proceeds are taxed as a death benefit. Lump sums paid from total and permanent disability (TPD) insurance proceeds are taxed as standard lump sums above, with the rate depending on the component, the age of the individual and the amount.

Lump sums released under the First Home Super Saver Scheme from 1 July 2018 will generally be taxed at the individual's marginal tax rate less a 30 per cent offset.

C12 Exemption for small business assets held for more than 15 years

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
205	315	355	470	490	505	540	565
<i>Variation type:</i>	<i>Exemption</i>						<i>2017 TES code:</i> C12
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	<i>Medium</i>						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	<i>1999</i>						<i>Expiry date:</i>
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	<i>Subdivision 152-B of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i></i>						

Under the benchmark, realised capital gains are generally assessable to taxpayers at their applicable tax rate in the year they arise. However, gains arising from the disposal of active small business assets that have been held continuously for 15 years are exempt from capital gains tax where the taxpayer is permanently incapacitated or reaches the age of 55 and retires.

FRINGE BENEFITS TAX

D1 Exemption for compensation-related benefits, occupational health and counselling services and some training courses

Public order and safety (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Sections 58J, 58K and 58M of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>					

Certain benefits in relation to: compensable work related trauma, medical services, other forms of health care provided in work site first aid posts and medical clinics, work related medical examinations, work related medical screening, work related preventative health care, work related counselling and migrant language training are exempt from fringe benefits tax.

D2 Exemption for safety award benefits

Public order and safety (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1987				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Section 58R of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>					

An award related to occupational health or an occupational safety achievement that is granted to an employee is exempt from fringe benefits tax if its value does not exceed \$200 per year.

D3 Reduction in taxable value for car expenses incurred for occupational health and counselling services and some training courses

Public order and safety (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Reduction in taxable value				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1987				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Section 61F of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>					

The taxable value of a fringe benefit may be reduced where an employee travels in their own car for the purpose of attending a work related medical examination, screening, preventative health care or counselling session, or for migrant language training and is reimbursed for the car expenses incurred calculated based on the distance travelled by the car.

D4 Exemption for benefits provided by certain international organisations

General public services - Foreign affairs and economic aid (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D4	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 55 and 56 of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

An exemption from fringe benefits tax applies to benefits provided by certain international organisations that are exempt from income tax and other taxes by virtue of the *International Organisations (Privileges and Immunities) Act 1963*, the *Consular Privileges and Immunities Act 1972* or the *Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1967* and by organisations established under international agreements which oblige Australia to grant the organisation a general tax exemption.

D5 Exemption for benefits received by Australian Government employees in receipt of military compensation payments

Defence (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
40	60	75	95	90	90	90	95
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D5	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1995				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 6AA and 6AB of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax (Application to the Commonwealth) Act 1986</i>						

Benefits provided to Australian Government employees in receipt of military compensation payments are exempt from fringe benefits tax.

D6 Exemption for health care benefits provided to members of the Defence Force

Defence (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
600	580	590	580	610	620	630	650
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D6	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1995				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 6AC of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax (Application to the Commonwealth) Act 1986</i>						

All health care benefits provided by the Australian Government to members of the Australian Defence Force (because of their membership) are exempt from fringe benefits tax.

D7 Exemption for war service loans

Defence (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D7	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - High						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 6 of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax (Application to the Commonwealth) Act 1986</i>						

Loan concessions authorised under the *Defence Service Homes Act 1918* and made by virtue of an employee's war service are exempt from fringe benefits tax.

D8 Reduction in taxable value for education costs of children of employees posted overseas

Education (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Reduction in taxable value				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D8	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1987				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 65A of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

The taxable value of fringe benefits (including a car, expense payment, property or residual benefit) in respect of full-time education of children of employees posted overseas may be reduced. The extent of the reduction relates to the period of the employee's service overseas.

D9 Exemption for charities promoting the prevention or control of disease in human beings

Health (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
110	120	130	135	140	145	150	155
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D9	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - High						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2001				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 5B and Subsection 57A(5) of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Charities whose principal activity is to promote the prevention or control of diseases in human beings are provided with an exemption from fringe benefits tax for up to \$30,000 of the grossed-up taxable value of fringe benefits per employee in each fringe benefits tax year. This exemption threshold changed to \$31,177 per employee for the fringe benefits tax years ending 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2017 only.

D10 Exemption for public and not-for-profit hospitals and public ambulance services

Health (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1,350	1,450	1,600	1,650	1,700	1,800	1,900	2,000
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D10	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2000				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 57A(3) and 57A(4) of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>	

Public and not-for-profit hospitals and public ambulance services are provided with an exemption from fringe benefits tax for up to \$17,000 of the grossed-up taxable value of fringe benefits per employee in each fringe benefits tax year. This exemption threshold changed to \$17,667 per employee for the fringe benefits tax years ending 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2017 only.

D11 Exemption for travel costs of employees and their families associated with overseas medical treatment

Health (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D11	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1987				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 58L of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Benefits that meet the costs of travel away from a work place located in a foreign country in order to obtain medical treatment are exempt from fringe benefits tax. Accommodation and meals are also exempt if provided en route.

D12 Exemption for accommodation, fuel and meals for live-in employees caring for the elderly or disadvantaged

Social security and welfare (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D12	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 58 and 58U of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Certain benefits that are provided to people employed in caring for elderly or disadvantaged persons and who reside with them in their own homes are exempt from fringe benefits tax. The benefits that are exempt are accommodation, residential fuel, meals and other food and drink provided in the home to the employee.

D13 Exemption for emergency assistance

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D13	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1987				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 58N of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Certain benefits provided by way of emergency assistance to employees are exempt from fringe benefits tax. Emergency assistance includes certain first aid or other emergency health care; emergency meals, food supplies, clothing, accommodation, transport, or use of household goods; temporary repairs; and any other similar benefit.

D14 Exemption for public benevolent institutions (excluding hospitals)

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1,400	1,550	1,650	1,650	1,700	1,800	1,900	2,000
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D14	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - High						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2001				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subsection 57A(1) of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Public benevolent institutions (excluding hospital activities) are provided with an exemption from fringe benefits tax for up to \$31,177 of the grossed-up taxable value of fringe benefits per employee for the fringe benefits tax years ending 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2017. In all other fringe benefits tax years the exemption is up to \$30,000 per employee.

D15 Exemption from the fringe benefit cap for meal entertainment and entertainment facility leasing expenses

Social security and welfare (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
275	290	220	235	245	260	275	285
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D15	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 January 2001				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 5B and Subsections 57A(1) and 57A(5) of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Charitable institutions whose principal activity is to promote the prevention or control of diseases in human beings, public and not-for-profit hospitals, public ambulance services, and public benevolent institutions (excluding hospital activities) are provided with an exemption from fringe benefits tax for meal entertainment and entertainment facility leasing expenses. Since 1 April 2016, the fringe benefits tax exemption on these items is no longer unlimited, with a \$5,000 cap on the grossed-up taxable value of fringe benefits per employee imposed.

D16 Exemption for meals for primary production employees in remote areas

Housing and community amenities (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D16	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 58ZD of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Certain meals provided on working days to employees of primary producers in remote areas are exempt from fringe benefits tax.

D17 Exemption for remote area housing and reduction in taxable value for housing assistance

Housing and community amenities (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption, Reduction in taxable value				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D17	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	3+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1986, 1988, 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 58ZC, 59, 60, and 65CC of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Housing benefits (the right to use accommodation as a usual place of residence) provided to employees in remote areas are exempt from fringe benefits tax. The taxable value of housing assistance provided to employees in remote areas is generally reduced by 50 per cent. Housing assistance may include housing loans or the reimbursement of rent paid by an employee.

D18 Exemption for certain fringe benefits provided to live-in employees providing domestic services to religious institutions and practitioners

Recreation and culture (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D18	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 58T of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Accommodation, residential fuel, meals and other food and drink provided to live-in employees who provide domestic services and are employed by religious institutions or religious practitioners are exempt from fringe benefits tax.

D19 Exemption for fringe benefits provided to certain employees of religious institutions

Recreation and culture (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
70	75	75	80	85	85	90	95
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D19	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1986				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 57 of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>	

Benefits provided to an employee, or to a spouse or child of the employee, of a religious institution are exempt from fringe benefits tax if the employee is a religious practitioner and only if the benefit is provided principally in respect of pastoral duties or any other duties or activities that are directly related to the practice, study, teaching or propagation of religious beliefs.

D20 Application of statutory formula to value car benefits

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
740	770	830	850	880	940	950	960
<i>Variation type:</i>	Discounted valuation				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D20	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1986				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 9 of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>	

A fringe benefit arises where an employee is provided with a car for private use. A car fringe benefit can be valued using the statutory formula method, under which the value of a person's car fringe benefit is determined by multiplying the cost of the car by the proportion of days the vehicle is used privately by the statutory rate of 20 per cent for contracts entered into after 7.30pm (AEST) on 10 May 2011. For contracts entered into prior to this, the statutory rates decreased as annual kilometres travelled increased.

D21 Approved worker entitlement fund payment exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
170	150	150	155	155	160	160	160
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D21	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2003				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 58PA and 58PB of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Payments to approved worker entitlement funds providing for entitlements such as redundancy and long service leave of employees are exempt from fringe benefits tax. The funds must be either endorsed by the Commissioner of Taxation or be a long service leave fund established under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law. Legislation currently before the Parliament proposes to change the regulation of worker entitlement funds from the Commissioner of Taxation to the Registered Organisations Commissioner.

D22 Australian Traineeship System - exemptions for certain employees

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D22	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1987				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 58S of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Food, drink and accommodation provided to people training under the Australian Traineeship System may be exempt from fringe benefits tax if the benefit is provided in accordance with an award or an industry custom. Benefits relating to food or drink must not be provided at a party, reception or other social function.

D23 Car parking benefits

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Discounted valuation				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D23	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1993				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 10A of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

A car parking fringe benefit arises if a car is parked at premises that are owned or leased by, or otherwise under the control of, the provider, there is a commercial parking station within one kilometre radius of the car parking premises charging an all-day fee greater than \$8.83 (for the year commencing 1 April 2018) and certain other conditions are met. There are four methods for valuing car parking fringe benefits that may result in a non-market valuation.

D24 Certain relocation and recruitment expenses exemption and reduction in taxable value

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption, Reduction in taxable value				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Sections 58A to 58D and 58F of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i> Sections 61B to 61E of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>					

Certain benefits associated with relocation and recruitment expenses, including transport, temporary accommodation, relocation consultants and other benefits, are exempt from fringe benefits tax, while others may be eligible for a reduction in taxable value.

D25 Compassionate travel exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1989				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Section 58LA of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>					

Certain travel costs provided on compassionate grounds to an employee, or their close relatives, are exempt from fringe benefits tax.

D26 Discounted valuation for board meals

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
5	4	4	5	5	6	6	6
<i>Variation type:</i>		Discounted valuation				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Low				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Section 36 of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>					

Where an employee is entitled to accommodation and to at least two meals a day, eligible meals (known as 'board meals') are valued at concessional rates for the purposes of fringe benefits tax. The taxable value is \$2 per meal per adult, or \$1 per meal per child under the age of 12.

D27 Discounted valuation for holidays for employees and their families when posted overseas

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Discounted valuation				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D27	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1987				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 61A and 143C of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

For fringe benefits tax purposes, the value of an overseas holiday provided as industry custom or under an industrial award to an employee and their family while posted overseas, is reduced by 50 per cent or 50 per cent of a benchmark holiday cost, whichever is lower. Overseas transport, meals and accommodation are included.

D28 Discounted valuation of arm's length transaction price for in-house property and residual fringe benefits

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Discounted valuation				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D28	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 42, 48 and 49 of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

The taxable value of in-house property and residual fringe benefits (generally, goods or services sold by the employer to the public) is 75 per cent of the lowest retail price charged to the public in the ordinary course of business. This includes airline transport fringe benefits. This treatment is not available for in-house fringe benefits accessed by way of a salary sacrifice arrangement.

D29 Employees of public transport providers - free or discounted travel exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
55	60	65	70	70	75	80	80
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D29	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>* Category</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subsection 47(1) of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Where an employer operates a business of providing public transport, the provision of free or discounted travel (other than in an aircraft) to employees of that business for travelling to and from work is exempt from fringe benefits tax. Free or discounted travel on a scheduled metropolitan service is also exempt from fringe benefits tax. This exemption excludes benefits provided under a salary sacrifice arrangement.

D30 Employer contributions to secure childcare places exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i> Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i> D30			
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i> Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i> 1+			
<i>Commencement date:</i> 1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>			
<i>Legislative reference:</i> Subsection 47(8) of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>							

Payments made by employers to obtain priority of access to approved childcare services for children of employees are exempt from fringe benefits tax.

D31 Employer-provided motor vehicle parking exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i> Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i> D31			
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i> Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i> 2+			
<i>Commencement date:</i> 1987				<i>Expiry date:</i>			
<i>Legislative reference:</i> Section 58G of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i> Regulations 12 and 14 of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Regulations 2018</i>							

Parking for disabled employees, and for employees of scientific, religious, charitable or other public educational institutions, is exempt from fringe benefits tax.

D32 Expenses for employees living away from home exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
60	40	40	50	50	50	50	50
<i>Variation type:</i> Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i> D32			
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i> Low							
<i>Commencement date:</i> 1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>			
<i>Legislative reference:</i> Sections 21, 31, 47(5), 58E, 58ZD and 63 of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>							

Accommodation, food, household goods and payments for extra expenses provided to employees living away from their usual place of residence (in order to perform their duties of employment) are exempt from fringe benefits tax. A range of requirements must be satisfied in order to access this concession.

D33 In-house fringe benefits - reduction in the aggregate taxable value

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Reduction in taxable value				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D33	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 62 of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

The taxable value of in-house fringe benefits (for example, goods sold by the employer to the public) provided to an employee is reduced by \$1,000, or the taxable value of the benefits is reduced to zero if the benefits are less than \$1,000. The reduction in taxable value does not apply where the benefits are provided under a salary sacrifice arrangement.

D34 Loan benefits exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D34	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 17 of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Certain in-house loan benefits and certain loans to employees to meet employment-related expenses are exempt from fringe benefits tax.

D35 Long service awards exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D35	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1987				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 58Q of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Long service awards granted in recognition of 15 years or more service, up to a specified maximum amount, are exempt from fringe benefits tax.

D36 Minor benefits exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D36	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1987				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 58P of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Minor benefits, worth less than \$300 and where it is unreasonable to treat them as fringe benefits, are exempt from fringe benefits tax.

D37 Minor private use of company motor vehicle exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D37	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subsection 47(6) of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Where an employee is provided with the use of a motor vehicle that is not a car, such use is exempt from fringe benefits tax if any private use is restricted to travel to and from work, use which is incidental to travel in the course of duties of employment, and non-work-related use that is minor, infrequent and irregular. There is a separate exemption for taxi travel by employees.

D38 Philanthropy - exemption for donations to deductible gift recipients

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D38	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2008				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subsection 148(2A) of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Donations to deductible gift recipients made under salary sacrifice arrangements are exempt from fringe benefits tax.

D39 Police officers - free or discounted travel to and from duty on public transport exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D39	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subsection 47(1A) of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

The provision of travel on public transport to police officers for the purpose of travel between the officer's place of residence and their primary place of employment is exempt from fringe benefits tax.

D40 Private use of business property exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D40	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	3+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 41 and 47(3) of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

The personal use of property (other than a motor vehicle) principally used directly in connection with business operations is exempt from fringe benefits tax. The property must be onsite or ordinarily located onsite, and provided to or consumed by an employee on a working day. This exemption excludes meals provided under a salary sacrifice arrangement.

D41 Provision of food and drink in certain circumstances exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D41	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 54 and 58V of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Where employees receive meals that are board fringe benefits, any additional food and drink supplied to them is exempt from fringe benefits tax. Food and drink provided to domestic employees who do not 'live-in' may also be exempt if consumed at the place of employment and the employer is a religious institution or individual.

D42 Recreational or childcare facilities on an employer's business premises exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Subsection 47(2) of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>					

Recreational or childcare facilities are exempt from fringe benefits tax if the facilities are provided on an employer's business premises for the benefit of employees.

D43 Remote area holiday benefits discounted valuation

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Discounted valuation				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Sections 60A and 61 of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>					

The value of holiday-related transport benefits (including the cost of appropriate meals and accommodation en route) provided to employees working in a remote area (and in some cases family members) are generally reduced by 50 per cent.

D44 Small business employee car parking exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1997				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Section 58GA of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>					

Car parking benefits provided to employees of small businesses are exempt from fringe benefits tax if the parking is not provided in a commercial car park. The employer must not be a government body, listed public company or subsidiary of a listed public company, and the employer's total income must be less than \$10 million.

D45 Taxi travel to or from place of work exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D45	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1995				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 58Z of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Any benefit arising from taxi travel by an employee is exempt from fringe benefits tax if the travel is a single trip beginning or ending at the employee's place of work.

D46 Transport for oil rig and remote area employees exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D46	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1986				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subsection 47(7) of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Transport provided to employees working in remote areas or on oil rigs may be exempt from fringe benefits tax.

D47 Work-related items exemption

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D47	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1995				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 58X of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Eligible work-related items (such as mobile phones, laptop computers, protective clothing and tools of trade) provided by an employer to an employee are exempt from fringe benefits tax.

D48 Fringe benefits tax record keeping exemption

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
..
<i>Variation type:</i>	Record keeping exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D48	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	High						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1998				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Part XIA of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Certain employers are eligible to use record keeping exemption arrangements when calculating their fringe benefits tax liability. The employer's liability is based on their aggregate fringe benefits amount in the most recent base year (a year beginning on or after 1 April 1996) in which they qualified to use the exemption arrangements. This may result in concessional tax treatment compared to being required to keep full fringe benefits tax records.

D49 Meal entertainment fringe benefits - 50/50 valuation method

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Record keeping exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D49	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1995				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 37B and 37BA of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

An employer may elect to value meal entertainment fringe benefits using the 50/50 method, under which the taxable value is equal to 50 per cent of total food and drink entertainment expenditure incurred in an FBT year relating to employees and their associates as well as third parties.

D50 Philanthropy - rebate for certain not-for-profit, non-government bodies

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
50	45	70	50	55	60	65	70
<i>Variation type:</i>	Rebate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	D50	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1994				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 65J of the <i>Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986</i>						

Certain not-for-profit, non-government bodies (including, in general, charitable institutions, schools, and trade unions) are eligible for a partial rebate of the fringe benefits tax that would otherwise be payable on up to \$30,000 of the grossed-up taxable value of fringe benefits per employee. This threshold changed to \$31,177 per employee for the fringe benefits tax years ending 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2017 only.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

E1 Exemption for valour or brave conduct decorations

Defence (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
..
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E1	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Paragraph 118-5(b) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Capital gains or losses arising from the disposal of a decoration awarded for valour or brave conduct are exempt from capital gains tax (CGT). This exemption is available unless the owner of the decoration had paid money or given any other property for it.

E2 Roll-over for membership interests in medical defence organisations

Health (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E2	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2007				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 124-P of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

A CGT roll-over is available for capital gains arising from the exchange of a membership interest in a medical defence organisation for a similar interest in another medical defence organisation where both organisations are companies limited by guarantee and subject to certain other conditions, until the ultimate disposal of the replacement membership interest.

E3 Exemptions for special disability trusts

Social security and welfare (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E3	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2006				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 118-85 and 118-215 to 118-230 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Assets donated to a special disability trust (SDT) are exempt from CGT. A trustee of a SDT is also eligible for the CGT main residence exemption to the extent the principal beneficiary uses the dwelling as a home.

E4 Additional 10 per cent discount for affordable housing

Housing and community amenities (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Reduction in taxable value				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	A34	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	High				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 January 2018				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Legislation has not yet been passed by both Houses of Parliament						

From 1 January 2018, resident individuals who elect to invest in qualifying affordable housing will receive an additional capital gains tax discount of up to ten percentage points, increasing the discount from 50 per cent to 60 per cent.

The tax benchmark variation occurs beyond 2020-21 due to the qualifying condition that a property is rented as affordable housing for at least three years after the commencement date.

See tax benchmark variation E14 for detail on the 50 per cent discount applying to assets held by individuals or trusts where the asset has been owned for at least 12 months.

E5 Concessions for conservation covenants

Housing and community amenities (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Reduction in taxable value				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E4	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	15 June 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 104-47 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

For CGT purposes, perpetual conservation covenants are treated as a part disposal of land, rather than the creation of a right. This treatment results in a reduced capital gain because a portion of the cost base of the land is taken into account. Landowners can also benefit from any CGT concession or exemption that may apply to the capital gain.

E6 Main residence exemption

Housing and community amenities (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
24,000	27,000	30,500	32,000	30,500	29,500	31,000	32,000
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E5	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1985				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 118-B of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

Note: estimates include tax benchmark variations E6 and E8

Capital gains or losses on the disposal of an individual's main residence and up to two hectares of adjacent land are exempt from CGT, to the extent the dwelling is used as a home.

From 9 May 2017, the main residence exemption is not available to foreign tax residents when they sell property in Australia. Foreign tax residents who hold property on 9 May 2017 can continue to claim the exemption until 30 June 2019. Legislation giving effect to this measure has not yet passed into law.

This tax benchmark variation covers the exemption of any capital gain or loss after the 50 per cent CGT discount for individuals and trusts has been applied. See tax benchmark variation E7 for the 50 per cent discount component of the main residence exemption.

E7 Main residence exemption - discount component

Housing and community amenities (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
30,000	32,500	37,000	37,500	36,000	35,000	36,000	37,500
<i>Variation type:</i>	Reduction in taxable value				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E6	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1999				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 115 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

Capital gains or losses on the disposal of an individual's main residence and up to two hectares of adjacent land are exempt from CGT, to the extent the dwelling is used as a home.

Disposals of other assets by individuals or trusts receive a CGT exemption applying to 50 per cent of any nominal gain where the asset has been owned for at least 12 months. The 50 per cent CGT discount is not available to the extent that a capital gain was accrued while the individual was a foreign or temporary resident.

The CGT treatment of the main residence effectively provides a 100 per cent exemption. Conceptually, this can be split into a component reflecting the 50 per cent discount provided to disposals of non-main residence assets and a 'top up' component that brings the concession up to 100 per cent.

Tax Benchmarks and Variations Statement

See tax benchmark variation E6 for the remainder of the value of the CGT main residence exemption. See tax benchmark variation E14 for detail on the 50 per cent discount applying to other assets.

E8 Main residence exemption extensions

Housing and community amenities (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Included in E6							
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				2017 TES code:	E7	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>							
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1985 and 1996				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 118-145, 118-195 and 118-200 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

A taxpayer's dwelling may continue to be treated as their main residence even if it ceases to be their main residence for up to six years, if the dwelling is used to produce assessable income; or indefinitely, if the dwelling is not used to produce assessable income. This is provided that no other dwelling is treated as the taxpayer's main residence during the period of absence.

In addition, a taxpayer who receives a dwelling as beneficiary of a deceased estate, or who owns the dwelling as the trustee of a deceased estate, may be able to disregard all or a proportion of a capital gain or loss if certain conditions are met.

E9 Exemption for the disposal of assets under the Cultural Gifts program

Recreation and culture (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				2017 TES code:	E8	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				* Category	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1999				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subsection 118-60(2) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Capital gains or losses arising from gifts made under the Cultural Gifts program are exempt from CGT. The Cultural Gifts program, which does not apply to testamentary gifts, encourages donations of significant cultural items from private collections to public art galleries, public museums and public libraries or Artbank by offering tax incentives to the donor.

E10 Roll-over for worker entitlement funds

Other economic affairs - Total labour and employment affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E9	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2003				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 126-C of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

A CGT roll-over is available for a fund that amends or replaces its trust deed in order to become an approved worker entitlement fund for fringe benefits tax purposes.

E11 Concession for non-portfolio interests in foreign companies with active businesses

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Reduction in taxable value				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E10	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	3+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2004				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 768-505 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Capital gains and losses of Australian companies and controlled foreign companies arising from certain CGT events related to non-portfolio interests in foreign companies with active business assets are reduced. The reduction reflects the degree to which the assets of the foreign company are used in active business. The concession applies where the Australian company holds a direct voting percentage of 10 per cent or more in the foreign company throughout a 12 month period.

E12 Deferral of liability when taxpayer dies

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E11	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	3+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 128 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

There is no CGT taxing point when a taxpayer dies. Recognition of the gains or losses accruing during the life of the deceased is deferred until the person inheriting the CGT asset later disposes of it. An exception applies if the asset passes to an exempt entity, the trustee of a complying superannuation entity, or a foreign resident.

E13 Demerger concessions

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption, Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		2002				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Division 125 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> Subsection 44(4) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>					

Concessions are available to defer or exempt the CGT payable in respect of the restructuring of a corporate or trust group, where the group is split into two or more entities or groups (that is, by demerging). There are three elements to demerger relief:

- CGT roll-over at the shareholder or trust membership interest level for interests such as shares that are exchanged during the demerger process;
- a CGT exemption for certain capital gains and losses at the entity level; and
- an income tax exemption for certain 'demerger dividends'.

E14 Discount for individuals and trusts

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
6,310	8,150	8,550	9,310	9,350	9,310	9,370	9,430
<i>Variation type:</i>		Reduction in taxable value				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Medium					
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1999; 2012 (removal for non-residents)				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Division 115 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>					

A CGT exemption applies to 50 per cent of any nominal capital gain made by a resident individual or trust where the asset has been owned for at least 12 months. Different rules may apply to assets acquired before 21 September 1999.

E15 Discount for investors in listed investment companies

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
60	55	55	60	70	75	80	75
<i>Variation type:</i>		Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Low					
<i>Commencement date:</i>		2001				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Subdivision 115-D of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>					

The shareholders of a listed investment company (LIC) who receive dividends that represent a distribution of capital gains made by that company are entitled to a deduction equivalent to the CGT discount they would have received if they had realised the capital gains themselves. This concession applies in respect of gains realised by a LIC on or after 1 July 2001, provided the assets have been held by the LIC for at least 12 months.

E16 Exemption for assets acquired before 20 September 1985

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E15	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 104 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Capital gains or losses on assets acquired before 20 September 1985 (the commencement date of the CGT regime) are generally exempt from CGT.

E17 Exemption for demutualisation of mutual entities

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E16	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1995 (mutual entities); 2007 (health insurers); 2008 (friendly societies)				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 9AA and Schedule 2H of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i> Division 315 and 316 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Capital gains and losses arising under the demutualisation of a mutual entity, including a life insurer, general insurer or health insurer are disregarded for members and/or policyholders that receive shares in the demutualised entity. Special rules determine the cost base of the shares received.

E18 Exemption for testamentary gifts to deductible gift recipients

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E17	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1999 (expanded 2005)				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subsections 118-60(1) and (1A) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Testamentary gifts (gifts made under a will) of certain property to deductible gift recipients are exempt from CGT.

E19 Exemption from the market value substitution rule for certain interests in widely held entities

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E18	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2006				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 116-30 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

The CGT market value substitution rule deems assets that are disposed of for less than their market value to have been disposed for a consideration equal to their market value. This treatment exempts membership interests in widely-held entities that are disposed of by way of a redemption, cancellation or surrender of the interest from the market value substitution rule, that is, they are subject to CGT at their disposal value.

E20 Grandfathering indexation of the cost base

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Reduction in taxable value				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E19	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 110-36 and Division 114 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

For assets acquired at or before 11:45 am EST on 21 September 1999, taxpayers may choose to calculate the capital gain on the asset by reference to its indexed cost base. Taxpayers that choose to use the indexed cost base cannot access the CGT discount. The indexed cost base for these assets was frozen as at 30 September 1999.

E21 Quarantining of capital losses

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Denial of deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E20	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	4-	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 100-50 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Capital losses may only be offset against capital gains, which means they are quarantined from ordinary income.

E22 Removal of taxation of certain financial instruments at point of conversion or exchange

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E21	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2002				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 26BB and 70B of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>						

Gains or losses from conversion or exchange of convertible or exchangeable interests issued after 14 May 2002 are not subject to taxation at the point of conversion or exchange, but instead, taxation is deferred until the ultimate disposal of the shares.

Convertible interests are financial instruments that may convert into shares in the company that issued the convertible interest. Exchangeable interests are instruments that may convert into shares in a company other than the issuer.

E23 Roll-over for assets compulsorily acquired, lost or destroyed

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E22	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 124-B of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

A CGT roll-over is available for capital gains where an asset is compulsorily acquired (whether by a private or public acquirer), lost or destroyed and the taxpayer purchases a replacement asset. The capital gains liability is deferred until the ultimate disposal of the replacement asset.

E24 Roll-over for complying superannuation funds in certain circumstances

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E23	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1994 (ADFs); 2008 (merging funds); 2013 (inter-fund MySuper mandatory transfers) and 2015 (intra-fund MySuper mandatory transfers)				<i>Expiry date:</i>	2017 (merging funds and MySuper mandatory transfers)	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 126-C (trust deeds), and Division 310 (merging funds) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> Division 311 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> (MySuper mandatory transfers)						

Tax relief is provided for superannuation funds which merge, where a complying superannuation fund or a complying Approved Deposit Fund amends or replaces its trust deed, in certain circumstances.

From 24 December 2008 to 1 July 2020, complying superannuation funds that merge are able to transfer capital and revenue losses to a new merged fund and to defer the taxation consequences on gains and losses from revenue and capital assets that are rolled over. Without the tax relief, the merged fund would not be able to access past losses and members would be taxed as if they had disposed and repurchased their assets at the time of the merger.

Similar tax relief was also provided between 1 July 2013 to 1 July 2017 for mandatory transfers of default members' balances and relevant assets to a MySuper product in another complying superannuation fund. In addition, from 29 June 2015 to 1 July 2017 asset roll-over relief was provided for mandatory transfers of default members' balances and relevant assets to a MySuper product within a complying superannuation fund's structure.

E25 Roll-over for replacement small business active assets

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
220	250	280	380	390	410	420	430
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E24	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1997				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 152-E of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Under the benchmark, realised capital gains are generally assessable to taxpayers at their applicable tax rate in the year they arise. However, a CGT roll-over is available for eligible small businesses, for gains arising from the disposal of active small business assets if the proceeds of the sale are used to purchase other active small business assets. Active assets include assets used in carrying on a business and intangible assets inherently connected with a business (for example, goodwill).

E26 Roll-over for statutory licences and water entitlements

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E25	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1985, 2005 and 2006				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivisions 124-C (statutory licences) and 124-R (water entitlements) of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

Under the benchmark, realised capital gains are generally assessable to taxpayers at their applicable tax rate in the year they arise. However, a CGT roll-over is available where a statutory licence ends and is replaced with a new licence that authorises substantially similar activity to the original licence. In addition, a CGT roll-over is available where a taxpayer's ownership of one or more water entitlements ends and the taxpayer receives one or more replacement water entitlements.

E27 Roll-over for transfer of assets on marriage or relationship breakdown

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E26	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 126-A of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

An automatic roll-over is available where a CGT asset is transferred to a spouse or former spouse because of a marriage or relationship breakdown, or under a binding financial agreement or an arbitral award entered into under the *Family Law Act 1975* or similar arrangements under state, territory or foreign legislation.

E28 Roll-overs not otherwise recognised

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E27	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	NA	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Various				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Divisions 122, 124 and 126 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

This tax benchmark variation encompasses other CGT roll-overs not specifically covered in existing CGT roll-over tax benchmark variations. For example, the crown lease roll-over in Subdivision 124-J, the roll-over for the disposal of assets by a trust to a company provided in Subdivision 124-N, and the roll-overs facilitating a change to a company structure in Division 122.

E29 Scrip-for-scrip roll-over

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-160	-170	-150	-5	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E28	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>* Category</i>	3+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1999				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 124-M of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>						

A CGT roll-over is available for capital gains arising from an exchange of interests in companies or fixed trusts, removing impediments to takeovers or similar arrangements. The roll-over ensures that an equity holder who exchanges original shares or other equity for new equity in a takeover or merger can defer a CGT liability arising from the exchange until the ultimate disposal of the replacement asset.

The rollover provides a deferral of CGT only. The financial impact of this tax benchmark variation is volatile as in any year new deferrals may be claimed by taxpayers (reducing revenue collections) and CGT may be paid on the ultimate disposal or replacement of assets that have previously accessed the deferral (increasing revenue collections).

E30 Small business 50 per cent reduction

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
600	700	820	960	1,020	1,090	1,170	1,250
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E29	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1999				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 152-C of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

Under the benchmark, realised capital gains are generally assessable to taxpayers at their applicable tax rate in the year they arise. However, a gain that arises from the sale of active assets held in an eligible small business can be reduced by 50 per cent. This applies in addition to any CGT discount entitlement of the taxpayer. Active assets include assets used in carrying on a business and intangible assets inherently connected with a business (for example, goodwill).

E31 Small business restructure roll-over

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-	-	-	20	20	25	25	30
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deferral				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	E30	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Very Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2016				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 328-G of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

Under the benchmark, realised capital gains are generally assessable to taxpayers at their applicable tax rate in the year they arise. However, owners of small business active assets are eligible for roll-over relief when they change the legal structure of their business, provided the underlying economic ownership of the assets is unchanged.

COMMODITY AND OTHER INDIRECT TAXES

F1 Biosecurity imports levy

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-	-	-	-	-	-115	-120	-125
<i>Variation type:</i>	Increased rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	New	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2019				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Legislation has not yet been introduced	

From 1 July 2019, a levy on sea imports will be imposed on port operators, at the rate of \$10.02 per twenty foot container (or equivalent) and \$1 per tonne for non-containerised cargo. This is a negative tax benchmark variation because the benchmark treatment is that imported goods are subject to the same taxes on consumption as domestically produced goods and, therefore, are free from biosecurity levy.

F2 Primary industry levy exemptions

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F1	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	<i>Primary Industries (Customs) Charges Act 1999</i> <i>Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Act 1999</i>						

Under the benchmark, primary industry levies would generally apply to all participants in a primary industry. However certain producers are exempt from primary industry levies. While the specific exemptions differ on a commodity by commodity basis, they are all in some way related to the quantity or value of the particular commodity produced in a given year.

F3 Exemptions from radiocommunications taxes for not-for-profit community or government entities

General public services - General services (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
5	7	7	8	8	8	8	8
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Medium				F2	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1992				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Section 294, Part 5.7 of the <i>Radiocommunications Act 1992</i> and Regulation 5 of the <i>Radiocommunications Taxes Collection Regulations 1985</i>					

An exemption from the apparatus licence fee is available to organisations or individuals who are: diplomatic and consular missions; surf lifesaving and remote area ambulance services; emergency services or services for the safe-guarding of human life – such as rural fire fighting and coast guard services. These must be staffed principally by volunteers and be exempt from paying income tax.

F4 Passenger Movement Charge exemptions

Transport and communication (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
70	70	80	90	100	100	110	110
<i>Variation type:</i>		Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Medium - High				F3	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		Section 5, <i>Passenger Movement Charge Collection Act 1978</i>					

Certain passengers are exempt from the Passenger Movement Charge including foreign diplomats, children and outbound crew.

F5 Luxury car tax

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-540	-620	-674	-735	-700	-720	-740	-770
<i>Variation type:</i>		Increased rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>		Medium				F4	
<i>Commencement date:</i>		1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>		A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax) Act 1999 A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition - General) Act 1999 A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition - Customs) Act 1999 A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition - Excise) Act 1999					

The luxury car tax currently applies to eligible fuel efficient motor vehicles that have a GST inclusive price over \$75,526 or most other motor vehicles that have a GST inclusive price over \$66,331. The luxury car tax is 33 per cent of the GST exclusive value of the car that exceeds the luxury car tax threshold. Generally, motor vehicle purchases are only subject to GST. Consequently, the luxury car tax is a negative tax benchmark variation.

Tax Benchmarks and Variations Statement

Certain exemptions or refunds apply to the LCT for 'primary producers', public museums registered as Deductible Gift Recipients and, subject to the passage of legislation, re-imported refurbished vehicles.

F6 Tourism - inwards duty free

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F5	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	3+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985 1 July 2000 (WET)				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Item 15 of Schedule 4 to the <i>Customs Tariff Act 1995</i> Section 7-15 of the <i>A New Tax System (Wine Equalisation Tax) Act 1999</i>						

Tobacco and alcohol products brought into Australia by inbound international travellers 18 years and over, within an allowance, are not subject to excise-equivalent customs duty or wine equalisation tax.

F7 Concessional rate of excise levied on aviation gasoline and aviation turbine fuel

Fuel and energy (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1,110	1,260	1,220	1,260	1,310	1,400	1,430	1,500
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F6	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	Introduced before 1985				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Item 10 of the Schedule to the <i>Excise Tariff Act 1921</i>						

Aviation gasoline and aviation turbine fuel are subject to a lower rate of excise than the benchmark rate. The rate of excise has been the same since 1 July 2014, when carbon components of the rate, applying from 1 July 2012, were removed. Consistent with its obligation as a signatory of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, Australia does not charge fuel excise on aviation fuel used for international civil aviation activities.

F8 Excise concessions for 'alternative fuels'

<u>Fuel and energy (\$m)</u>							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
270	240	190	170	150	150	150	150
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate, Increased rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F7	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1985				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Excise Tariff Act 1921	

The benchmark rates for fuel consumed in an internal combustion engine are based on categories of energy density of the fuel types. There are categories for high, medium and low energy density fuels.

Alternative fuels including biodiesel, ethanol, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), liquefied natural gas (LNG) and compressed natural gas (CNG) are subject to lower excise rates than the benchmark.

In June 2015, the Government passed legislation to gradually increase excise duty on domestically produced biodiesel and fuel ethanol.

Before 1 July 2015, domestically produced biodiesel and fuel ethanol were subject to the same excise rates as petrol and diesel, with grants available to producers to offset the excise. From 1 July 2015, the excise rates for these fuels were reduced to zero and the grants ceased. The excise rates for domestically manufactured fuel ethanol and biodiesel then increase on 1 July of each subsequent year until the final rates are reached on 1 July 2020 and 1 July 2030 respectively.

The final rates for biodiesel (a high energy content fuel) and fuel ethanol (a medium energy content fuel) will be 50 per cent of the respective benchmark rates.

Since 1 July 2015, the excise rates for LPG, LNG and CNG have been 50 per cent of the benchmark rate applying to high energy content fuels.

Users of small, non-commercial scale, domestically-based compressed natural gas refuellers are exempt from paying excise duty on compressed natural gas used to fuel their vehicles.

F9 Excise levied on fuel oil, heating oil and kerosene

Fuel and energy (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-250	-190	-110	-100	-115	-125	-130	-135
<i>Variation type:</i>	Increased rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F8	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	2006				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Item 10 of the Schedule to the <i>Excise Tariff Act 1921</i>						

The benchmark excise rate for fuels consumed for a purpose other than in an internal combustion engine is zero. Fuel oil, heating oil, and kerosene are subject to excise equivalent to that applying to petroleum and diesel. Business users of these products are eligible for a fuel tax credit of an equivalent value.

F10 Excise levied on fuel products used for purposes other than as fuel

Fuel and energy (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-55	-55	-60	-55	-55	-60	-60	-65
<i>Variation type:</i>	Increased rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F9	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2006				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Item 10 of the Schedule to the <i>Excise Tariff Act 1921</i>						

The benchmark excise rate for fuels consumed for a purpose other than in an internal combustion engine is zero. Fuels consumed for a purpose other than in an internal combustion engine (such as toluene, mineral turpentine and white spirits) are subject to excise equivalent to that applying to petroleum and diesel. Business users of these products are eligible for a fuel tax credit of an equivalent value.

F11 Higher rate of excise levied on cigarettes not exceeding 0.8 grams of tobacco

Health (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-1,935	-2,065	-2,215	-2,405	-2,580	-2,920	-3,130	-3,290
<i>Variation type:</i>	Increased rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F10	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1999				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Item 5 of the Schedule to the <i>Excise Tariff Act 1921</i>						

The benchmark excise rate is the rate per kilogram applying to tobacco products containing more than 0.8 grams of tobacco. Cigarettes and cigars containing no more than 0.8 grams of tobacco pay excise at a per-stick rate. Due to the way that the per-stick rate and per-kilogram rate are equalised, cigarettes containing less tobacco than the equalisation weight will have a higher excise liability than if they were subject to the benchmark rate. The equalisation weight was reduced to 0.775 grams per stick from 1 September 2017 and 0.75 grams per stick from 1 September 2018, and will be reduced to 0.725 grams per stick from 1 September 2019 and 0.70 grams per stick from 1 September 2020.

F12 Concessional rate of excise levied on brandy

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F11	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	9 November 1979				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Item 3 of the Schedule to the <i>Excise Tariff Act 1921</i>	

Brandy is subject to a lower rate of excise than the benchmark rate of other spirits.

F13 Concessional rate of excise levied on brew-on-premise beer

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F12	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 January 1993	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Item 1 of the Schedule to the <i>Excise Tariff Act 1921</i>				<i>Expiry date:</i>		

Brew-on-premise beer (that is, beer produced for non-commercial purposes using commercial facilities or equipment) is subject to a lower rate of excise than the benchmark rate of full strength beer packaged in individual containers not exceeding 48 litres or, from 1 July 2019, below 8 litres, subject to the passage of legislation.

F14 Concessional rate of excise levied on draught beer

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
160	160	165	165	170	180	185	190
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F13	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 January 2001	
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Item 1 of the Schedule to the <i>Excise Tariff Act 1921</i>				<i>Expiry date:</i>		

Draught beer (that is, beer packaged in individual containers exceeding 48 litres) is subject to a lower rate of excise than the benchmark rate of full strength beer packaged in individual containers not exceeding 48 litres.

From 1 July 2019, subject to the passage of legislation, the lower rate of excise available to beer packaged in individual containers exceeding 48 litres will be extended to individual containers of 8 litres or more.

F15 Concessional rate of excise levied on low strength packaged beer

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
6	6	5	7	7	7	7	8
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F14	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	21 August 1984				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Item 1 of the Schedule to the <i>Excise Tariff Act 1921</i>						

Low strength beer with an alcohol content of no more than 3 per cent is subject to a lower rate of excise than the benchmark rate of similarly packaged full strength beer.

F16 Excise concession for alcohol producers

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
5	6	6	10	10	30	35	40
<i>Variation type:</i>	Rebate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F15	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1/7/2012 (brewers) 1/7/2017 (distillers)				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Table 1, Item 21 of Schedule 1 to the <i>Excise Regulation 2015</i> Item 5, Division 4 of the <i>Excise Regulation 2015</i>						

Breweries receive an excise refund of 60 per cent of excise paid on or after 1 July 2012, up to a maximum amount of \$30,000 per financial year. Domestic distilleries and producers of low strength fermented beverages such as non-traditional cider (excluding most alcopop producers) can also claim the refund for excise paid on or after 1 July 2017.

From 1 July 2019, the maximum excise refund will increase from \$30,000 to \$100,000 per financial year.

F17 Excise exemption for privately produced beer

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F16	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	18 April 1973				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Schedule to the <i>Excise Tariff Act 1921</i>						

Beer made for personal use by private individuals is exempt from the payment of excise.

F18 Wine equalisation tax exemption for privately produced wine

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F17	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	19 August 1970				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	A New Tax System (Wine Equalisation Tax) Act 1999						

Wine made for personal use by private individuals is exempt from the wine equalisation tax.

F19 Wine equalisation tax producer rebate

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
310	320	340	310	290	280	280	280
<i>Variation type:</i>	Rebate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F18	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1/10/2004				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
	1 July 2018 (tightened eligibility criteria and reduced rebate cap)						
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	A New Tax System (Wine Equalisation Tax) Act 1999						

Wine producers are able to claim a rebate of wine equalisation tax (WET) of up to \$350,000 per financial year. The rebate also extends to traditional cider, perry, mead, and sake. The cap was reduced from \$500,000 per financial year, from 1 July 2018.

From 1 July 2018, eligibility for the rebate was also tightened, including by requiring wine producers to own at least 85 per cent of the grapes used to make the wine throughout the winemaking process, and for wine to be branded and packaged in a container not exceeding five litres (51 litres for cider and perry).

The tightened eligibility criteria applies to all wine from the 2018 vintage irrespective of when the rebate is claimed.

F20 Certain exemptions for diplomatic missions and foreign diplomats

General public services - Foreign affairs and economic aid (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F19	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - High				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	21 August 1940				<i>Legislative reference:</i>		
	Division 2 and Schedule 1 of the <i>Excise Regulation 2015</i>						
	Section 10 of the <i>Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1967</i>						
	Section 10 of the <i>Consular Privileges and Immunities Act 1972</i>						
	Section 11 of the <i>International Organisations (Privileges and Immunities) Act 1963</i>						
	Section 12 of the <i>Overseas Missions (Privileges and Immunities) Act 1995</i>						

Excise, luxury car tax and wine equalisation tax are not payable (or the amount paid is claimable) for alcohol, fuel, motor vehicles and tobacco used for official purposes by diplomatic missions or for personal use by persons identified in the *Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1967*.

F21 Certain exemptions for Australian military sea vessels

Defence (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F20	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1934				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Item 6 of Table 2 of Schedule 1 to the <i>Excise Regulation 2015</i>						

Excise on tobacco and certain alcoholic products is not payable by Australian military seagoing vessels in full commission when the products are consumed on board.

F22 Customs duty

Mining, manufacturing and construction (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-2,700	-2,280	-1,590	-1,540	-1,500	-1,460	-1,290	-1,130
<i>Variation type:</i>	Increased rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	F21	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - High				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	4 October 1901				<i>Legislative reference:</i>		
	<i>Customs Act 1901</i>						
	<i>Customs Tariff Act 1995</i>						

Customs duty is collected on certain goods imported into Australia (for example, most cars are subject to 5 per cent customs duty upon importation). This is a negative tax benchmark variation because the benchmark treatment is that imported goods are subject to the same taxes on consumption as domestically produced goods and, therefore, are free from customs duty (except for excise-equivalent customs duty).

NATURAL RESOURCES TAXES

G1 Junior Minerals Exploration Incentive

Mining, manufacturing and construction (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
-	-	-	-	10	9	7	9
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	G1	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>	30 June 2021	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2014				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 418 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>	

A tax incentive is provided to Australian resident investors that purchase newly issued shares in small minerals exploration companies that are raising capital to fund greenfields exploration activity. Eligible companies are able to create exploration credits by giving up a portion of their tax losses relating to their exploration expenditure, which can then be distributed to investors.

Most investors that receive a credit are entitled to a refundable tax offset or an additional franking credit if the investor is a company. As the refundable tax offset is an expense item, it does not appear as a tax benchmark variation in its own right. However, under the benchmark a tax benchmark variation arises because payments made under this arrangement are exempt from tax.

The Junior Minerals Exploration Incentive applies from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2021, building on the former Exploration Development Incentive which applied from the 2014-15 income year to 30 June 2017.

G2 Crude Oil Excise

Fuel and energy (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	G2	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	NA	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2012				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	<i>Petroleum Resource Rent Tax Assessment Act 1987</i>						

Under the natural resource benchmark, crude oil excise is treated as a prepayment of Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (PRRT) liabilities and to the extent that the crude oil excise exceeds the PRRT payable in a year, a negative tax benchmark variation will arise for that period. Where crude oil excise credits are carried forward and used to reduce PRRT in later periods, a tax benchmark variation will arise in the year the carried forward credit is utilised.

On 2 November 2018 the Government announced changes to the PRRT including the removal of onshore projects from the PRRT regime.

G3 PRRT - denial of refund of tax credits for losses at project end

Fuel and energy (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Denial of refund				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	G3	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	1-	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 1990				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	<i>Petroleum Resource Rent Tax Act 1987</i>						

There is no refund of the tax value of losses available when the project closes down. This treatment is consistent with the benchmark prior to 1 July 2012 but gives rise to a tax benchmark variation under the benchmark applying from 1 July 2012.

G4 PRRT - expenditure uplift rate

Fuel and energy (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	G4	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 1990				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	<i>Petroleum Resource Rent Tax Act 1987</i>						

Expenditure that generates project losses is uplifted at a number of different rates depending on when the expenditure took place and the nature of the expenditure. For example, exploration expenditure is uplifted at the long term bond rate plus 15 percentage points and general expenditure is uplifted at the long term bond rate plus 5 percentage points. These uplift rates are beyond the notional benchmark rate of the long term bond rate.

On 2 November 2018 the Government announced a policy to reduce the expenditure uplift rates in some cases.

G5 PRRT - gas transfer price regulations

Fuel and energy (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	G5	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	20 December 2005				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	<i>Petroleum Resource Rent Tax Assessment Regulation 2015</i>						

The PRRT gas transfer price regulations stipulate rules for calculating the gas transfer price where there is no arm's length transaction in an integrated liquefied natural gas (LNG) project. The regulations provide an allowance for capital expenditure which is based on the long term bond rate plus 7 percentage points rather than the notional benchmark rate which is the long term bond rate. The regulations also include provisions in the calculation of the gas transfer price that reduce the estimated

upstream gas price by half the difference between the estimated ‘upstream’ price and the estimated ‘downstream’ price where the upstream price is the higher.

The Government has asked Treasury to lead a review of the gas transfer pricing arrangements. Treasury will consult and report back within 12 to 18 months.

G6 PRRT - starting base and uplift rate for capital assets

Fuel and energy (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Deduction				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	G6	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2012				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	<i>Petroleum Resource Rent Tax Assessment Act 1987</i>						

Existing investments of projects brought under the PRRT on 1 July 2012 are recognised through the provision of a starting base allowance. The starting base allowance recognises assets relating to the upstream assets of the PRRT project on 2 May 2010. Unused starting base losses are uplifted at the long term bond rate plus 5 percentage points. Unused exploration expenditure under the look back valuation option is uplifted at long term bond rate plus 15 percentage points.

The Government has announced that onshore projects will be removed from the PRRT regime from 1 July 2019.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

H1 Financial supplies - financial acquisitions threshold - input tax credits

General public services - Financial and fiscal affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H1	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	3+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 11-15(4) and 189-5 of the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999						

Generally, financial supplies are not subject to GST and input tax credits cannot be claimed for such supplies. However, entities that make financial supplies without exceeding the financial acquisitions threshold are entitled to input tax credits for acquisitions used or intended to be used for making the financial supplies. This allows entities to claim input tax credits for financial supplies, where they have principal commercial activities other than providing financial supplies.

An entity does not exceed the financial acquisitions threshold if the input tax credits it would have been entitled to for the acquisitions do not exceed \$150,000 or 10 per cent of their total input tax credits for the year.

H2 Financial supplies - input taxed treatment

General public services - Financial and fiscal affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
2,800	2,950	3,150	3,400	3,600	3,850	4,150	4,400
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption, Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H2	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 40-A of the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999						

Generally, financial supplies are not subject to GST and input tax credits cannot be claimed for such supplies. For example, banks do not charge GST on the supply of bank accounts to customers, and cannot claim back the GST component of the costs they incur in supplying bank accounts. A positive tax benchmark variation arises in this situation as the GST paid is less than 10 per cent of the final value of the financial supply.

A negative tax benchmark variation arises where the financial supply is to a business. This is because no GST would actually be payable under the benchmark (subjecting financial services to GST) in this situation as businesses would claim an input tax credit for the GST amount. However, under actual tax arrangements, some GST is paid as input tax credits cannot be claimed on financial supplies to businesses.

Financial supplies are input taxed due to the difficulty in valuing them. The input tax treatment of financial supplies in Australia is consistent with international practice.

H3 Financial supplies - reduced input tax credits

General public services - Financial and fiscal affairs (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
700	750	800	850	900	950	1,050	1,100
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H3	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 70 of the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999	

Generally, financial supplies are not subject to GST and input tax credits cannot be claimed for such supplies. However, input tax credits may be claimed for the acquisition of certain supplies, (including cash management, funds transfer, and debt collection services) but at a reduced rate (either 55 or 75 per cent of the standard input tax credit entitlement depending on the acquisition).

Reduced input tax credits are designed to reduce the bias between insourcing and outsourcing the relevant services, as GST can apply where these services are outsourced, but not when they are provided internally by employees.

H4 Charities and non-profit bodies

General public services - General services (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H4	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 38-G of the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999						

Non-profit bodies are entitled to a higher GST registration threshold of \$150,000. They are entitled to GST-free treatment on non-commercial activities, certain retirement village services, bingo, and sale of second hand goods. Charities can elect to have fundraising treated as input taxed. This option is also available to gift deductible entities and government schools.

H5 Child care services

Housing and community amenities (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1,170	1,280	1,350	1,380	1,540	1,680	1,790	1,920
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H5	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium - Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 38-D of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999</i>	

Generally, child care will be GST-free where the provider is eligible to receive government funding, or if the provider is a registered carer or child care service for the purposes of the relevant Commonwealth legislation. All supplies that are directly related to child care are also GST-free.

H6 Water, sewerage and drainage

Housing and community amenities (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
850	980	980	1,030	1,090	1,150	1,210	1,280
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H6	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 38-I of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999</i>	

A supply of water is GST-free unless it is supplied in, or transferred into, a container with a capacity of less than 100 litres. The draining of storm water, the emptying of a septic tank and sewerage and sewerage-like services are also GST-free. Water sold as a beverage is included in tax benchmark variation H26.

H7 Diplomats, diplomatic missions and approved international organisations

General public services - Foreign affairs and economic aid (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
8	8	9	8	9	9	10	10
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H7	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 10B of the <i>Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1967</i> Section 10A of the <i>Consular Privileges and Immunities Act 1972</i> Section 11C of the <i>International Organisations (Privileges and Immunities) Act 1963</i>	

Diplomatic missions, consulates and certain international organisations may be reimbursed the GST included in their purchases of certain goods and services, where the purchase is for the official use of the organisation. The GST included in purchases by diplomatic and consular staff, or certain staff of some international organisations, for the private use of the person may also be refundable. The refund must be within the scope of the *Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1967*, the *Consular Privileges and Immunities Act 1972*, or the *International Organisations (Privileges and Immunities) Act 1963*.

H8 Global roaming by visitors to Australia

Transport and communication (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i> Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i> H8			
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i> Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i> 1+			
<i>Commencement date:</i> 1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>			
<i>Legislative reference:</i> Section 38-570 of the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999							

Telecommunication supplies for global roaming services provided to visitors to Australia are GST-free, consistent with Australia's treaty obligations under the International Telecommunication Regulations (the Melbourne Agreement).

H9 Tourist refund scheme

Other economic affairs - Tourism and area promotion (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i> Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i> H9			
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i> Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i> 2+			
<i>Commencement date:</i> 1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>			
<i>Legislative reference:</i> Division 168 of the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999							

International travellers visiting Australia and Australians travelling overseas may be able to claim a refund of GST paid on certain goods bought in Australia if the total value of the goods is \$300 or more, they are purchased within 60 days of departure and the goods are taken with the traveller when they depart Australia.

In addition, residents of Australia's external Territories, such as Norfolk, Cocos (Keeling) and Christmas Islands, can claim refunds of GST under the tourist refund scheme. Claims can be made if Australian external Territory residents leaving Australia can show proof that the goods have been exported to their external Territory within the required period after the goods were acquired.

H10 Boats for export

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
16	16	21	21	19	18	17	17
<i>Variation type:</i> Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i> H10			
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i> Low							
<i>Commencement date:</i> 1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>			
<i>Legislative reference:</i> Item 4A of section 38-185 of the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999							

Supplies of eligible boats used for recreational purposes are GST-free if the boats are exported by the purchaser from Australia within 12 months, with effect from 1 July 2011. Other goods must be exported from Australia within 60 days in order to be GST-free.

H11 Tourism - domestic travel as part of an international arrangement

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H12	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 38-355 of the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999						

Domestic air or sea travel within Australia by residents or non-residents as part of a wider international arrangement is not subject to GST. Domestic air travel within Australia by non-residents is also GST-free if the ticket is purchased while the passenger is outside Australia. Transport insurance for the above supplies is also GST-free.

H12 Tourism - inwards duty free

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H13	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	3+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 38-415 of the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999						

Supplies made through an inwards duty free shop to inbound international travellers are not subject to GST.

H13 Tourism - travel agents arranging overseas travel

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
245	230	170	215	250	255	255	265
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H14	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 38-360 of the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999						

The arranging of overseas travel, accommodation and other services by travel agents in Australia in the course of their business is GST-free. The arranging service must relate to a holiday or supply that takes place or is used overseas.

H14 Education

Education (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
3,800	4,000	4,200	4,400	4,750	5,050	5,400	5,800
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H15	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 38-C of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999</i>						

Certain education supplies are GST-free. These include education courses, directly related administrative services provided by the same provider as the education course, sale of course materials or lease of curriculum-related goods to a student undertaking a pre-school or primary or secondary course by the same provider as the education course, student accommodation for students attending a primary, secondary or special education course provided by the same provider as the education course, excursions and field trips (excluding food and accommodation provided as part of a tertiary course, tertiary residential college course or professional or trade course) and supplies related to the recognition of prior learning.

H15 Health - drugs and medicinal preparations

Health (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
360	370	390	410	440	460	490	520
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H16	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 38-50 of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999</i>						

Most medicines for human use are GST-free. GST-free medicines include: medicines that can only be supplied on prescription; medicines supplied as a pharmaceutical benefit; non-prescription drugs that can only be supplied by a doctor, dentist, pharmacist or other prescribed person as described by relevant state or territory law; medicines supplied under the Special Access Scheme; and certain analgesics covered by a written determination by the Federal Health Minister.

H16 Health - medical aids and appliances

Health (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
225	245	260	275	305	340	355	375
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H17	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 38-38, 38-45, 38-47 and Subdivision 38-P of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999</i>						

A medical aid or appliance is GST-free if the medical aid or appliance is listed in Schedule 3 to the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999*, or specified in the regulations and specifically designed for people with an illness or disability and not widely used by others.

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The supply of cars for use by disabled persons, spare parts for medical aids and appliances and the services related to the provision of the medical aid or appliance are GST-free. Goods that are the subject of a written determination by the Federal Health Minister are also GST-free, including certain disability support delivered under the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013*.

H17 Health - medical and health services

Health (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
3,400	3,650	3,850	4,050	4,300	4,550	4,850	5,150
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H18	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 38-7, 38-10, 38-15, 38-20 of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999</i>	

Medical services are GST-free if: they are a service for which a Medicare benefit is payable under the *Health Insurance Act 1973*; they are supplied by, or on behalf of, a medical practitioner; and they constitute a service that is generally accepted in the medical profession as being necessary for the treatment of the patient.

Health services rendered by a recognised professional, as well as hospital treatment are also GST-free. Goods supplied in the course of making GST-free health care services are generally GST-free.

H18 Health - residential care, community care and other care services

Health (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
950	1,010	1,070	1,130	1,200	1,270	1,350	1,440
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H19	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 38-25, 38-30, 38-35, 38-38 of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999</i>	

Some services provided by care and specialist disability providers are GST-free, including certain disability supports delivered under the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013*. The quality of care principles found in the *Aged Care Act 1997* apply in determining the tax status of specific care services. In general, publicly funded aged or disability care services are GST-free, as are privately funded aged care services which meet the quality of care principles found in the *Aged Care Act 1997* and are provided to those needing daily living activities assistance or nursing services.

H19 Private health insurance

Health (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
290	320	360	380	410	450	480	510
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H20	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Sections 38-55, 38-60 of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999</i>	

A supply of private health insurance by a private health insurer (within the meaning of the *Private Health Insurance Act 2007*) is GST-free. In line with the GST treatment of general insurance, the tax benchmark variation for this item is based on the difference between the premium income of private health insurers and the value of benefits paid out.

H20 Religious services

Recreation and culture (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
40	45	45	50	55	60	65	70
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H21	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 38-220 of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999</i>	

Supplies of religious services are GST-free if supplied by a religious institution and the supplied service is integral to the practice of that religion.

H21 Supplies of farm land

Agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$m)							
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H22	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	3+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 38-O of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999</i>						

Specific supplies of farm land are GST-free. This includes: farm land supplied for farming on which a farming business has been carried on for at least five years and upon which a farming business is intended to continue to be carried on; and subdivided farm land that is potential residential land that is supplied to associates for nil or inadequate consideration.

H22 Registration thresholds

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H23	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	3+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 23-15 and Part 4-5 of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999</i> Regulations 23-15.01 and 23-15.02 of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Regulation 1999</i>						

Entities (other than taxi operators) with a GST turnover less than \$75,000 or \$150,000 for non-profit entities are not required to register for GST. Supplies made by unregistered entities are not subject to GST.

H23 Simplified accounting methods

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
11	11	14	15	15	15	15	15
<i>Variation type:</i>	Concessional rate				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H24	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low						
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Division 123 of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999</i>						

The Commissioner of Taxation can create simplified accounting methods (SAMs) that some small businesses can choose to apply to reduce their GST compliance costs. SAMs allow taxpayers to apply simple ratios to calculate their GST liabilities (or components of them) rather than accounting for each supply to determine if it is taxable or non-taxable. Being ratios, SAMs will benefit some taxpayers by reducing their GST liabilities while increasing the GST liabilities of others, relative to the amounts calculated using a full GST calculation.

While SAMs are designed to reduce compliance costs rather than provide a tax concession, entities that expect to receive a tax benefit from applying SAMs are more likely to adopt this methodology than those that do not. This would be expected to result in a net tax concession.

H24 Precious metal

Mining, manufacturing and construction (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H25	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Not Applicable				<i>* Category</i>	2+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 38-L of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999</i>						

The first supply of a precious metal (after its refining by or on behalf of the supplier) to a precious metal dealer is GST-free, while subsequent supplies of precious metals are input taxed. The GST-free treatment of precious metals recognises that precious metal prices are internationally fixed, and gold dealers cannot pass on the GST on sales they make. Making the initial supply after refining GST free is intended to ensure that there is no GST embedded in the price of that sale.

To address integrity concerns of precious metals transactions receiving GST credits under the second-hand goods rules, a 2017-18 Budget measure introduced a reverse charge in business-to-business transactions for goods that derive most of their value from their precious metal content. The definition of second-hand goods was also amended to clarify that precious metals are not second-hand goods for the purpose of claiming input tax credits.

The tax benchmark variation is represented by the GST refunds to businesses that first supply precious metals and sell them GST-free and that no GST is collected on precious metal imports, less the input tax credits denied for purchasing businesses. The 2017-18 Budget measure reduces the tax benchmark variation by addressing revenue leakage arising from input tax credit claims on precious metals that are fraudulently supplied as second-hand goods.

H25 Cross-border transport supplies

Transport and communication (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H26	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Low				<i>* Category</i>	1+	
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2010				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Section 13-20 of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999</i>						

Since 1 July 2010, the total transport and insurance cost of imported goods is included in the calculation of the value of the taxable importation. If the imported good is a non-taxable importation (for example, the supply of the good would be GST-free), the domestic transport or insurance component of the transportation supplied is still not taxed.

H26 Food

Other economic affairs - Other economic affairs, nec (\$m)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
6,400	6,600	6,800	7,000	7,300	7,500	7,800	8,100
<i>Variation type:</i>	Exemption				<i>2017 TES code:</i>	H27	
<i>Estimate Reliability:</i>	Medium				<i>Expiry date:</i>		
<i>Commencement date:</i>	1 July 2000				<i>Legislative reference:</i>	Subdivision 38-A of the <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999</i>	

Most food items for human consumption that are prepared and/or consumed at home are GST-free. Examples of GST-free food include fresh fruit and vegetables, fish, dairy products, bread and meat. Examples of GST-free beverages include unflavoured milk products, tea, coffee, water and fruit juices. Food and beverages subject to GST include: restaurant and takeaway meals, confectionary, savoury snacks, ice cream, biscuits and soft drinks.

CHAPTER 4: REVENUE GAIN ESTIMATES OF TAX BENCHMARK VARIATIONS

The revenue gain approach is an alternative to the revenue forgone approach used to produce the tax benchmark variation estimates in Chapter 3. Revenue gain estimates for individual tax benchmark variations are more akin to estimates of the revenue impact of budget measures.

Because they take account of behavioural responses, revenue gain estimates are often lower than revenue forgone estimates.

- For example, introducing a tax benchmark variation may create incentives for taxpayers to change their behaviour to utilise (or avoid) the new tax provision. Removing the tax benchmark variation (so that the benchmark tax treatment prevailed) would remove this incentive and may cause a corresponding change in taxpayer behaviour.

In particular, taxpayers may make greater use of other tax benchmark variations if a particular tax benchmark variation were to be (hypothetically) abolished.

- For example, a revenue gain estimate for the concessional treatment of employer superannuation contributions would take account of the potential for voluntary employer contributions to be redirected to other tax-preferred investments.

Consistent with a recommendation of the Australian National Audit Office in its 2007-08 performance audit of the Tax Expenditures Statement,⁶ this Chapter reports revenue gain estimates for 10 large tax benchmark variations.

These tax benchmark variations have been chosen because they best illustrate the considerable differences between the revenue forgone and revenue gain approaches, and how those differences can vary between tax benchmark variation items.

Revenue gain estimates for tax benchmark variations relating to the CGT concessions for housing (E6 and E7) and the CGT discount for individuals and trusts (E14) have not been produced because of the significant uncertainty about behavioural responses.

⁶ ANAO Audit Report No. 32, 2007-08, *Preparation of the Tax Expenditures Statement*, Recommendation 5.

Revenue gain estimates should be treated with caution.

- In practice, the revenue gain can be difficult to estimate as there is usually little, if any, information on how taxpayers might react to the removal of a tax benchmark variation. Assumptions about behavioural responses therefore need to be made, and these assumptions can be difficult to meaningfully substantiate.
- Revenue gain estimates assume that a tax benchmark variation is abolished with immediate effect, whereas it may be more plausible on policy grounds to adopt transitional arrangements (for example, grandfathering), or to reduce the size of a tax benchmark variation rather than abolish it.
- Judgments also need to be made about likely policy settings – for example, whether it is realistic to assess the abolition of a single tax benchmark variation (for example, a particular GST exemption) while keeping other tax benchmark variations unchanged (for example, other GST exemptions).
- Revenue gain estimates do not take into account any potential changes in direct expenditure flowing from the removal of a tax benchmark variation.

4.1. Standard assumptions for the revenue gain estimates

The tax benchmark variations listed below have been estimated using both the revenue gain and revenue forgone approaches. The revenue gain estimates all assume that the tax benchmark variations:

- are removed with effect from 1 July 2018;
- apply prospectively to transactions entered into after that date; and
- include other specific assumptions concerning likely policy specifications for the removal of each concession as set out in the text below each estimate.

The revenue gain estimates also incorporate the impact of direct behavioural responses from the change where these are expected to have a significant impact on the estimates. The revenue gain estimates do not include any allowance for second round effects (that is, those arising from the flow-on of a change, beyond those directly affected, into the wider economy) because of the considerable uncertainty regarding the magnitude and timing of such effects.

Revenue forgone and revenue gain estimates are presented for a four-year period from 2018-19. A brief outline of the reasons for any difference between the revenue gain and revenue forgone estimates is then provided.

TAX BENCHMARK VARIATIONS BASED ON REVENUE GAIN APPROACH

C4: Concessional taxation of superannuation entity earnings								
Estimates	Revenue forgone estimate (\$m)				Revenue gain estimate (\$m)			
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	19,550	20,150	21,100	22,650	19,250	18,750	19,150	20,400
Reason for difference	Broadly, the revenue gain approach yields a lower estimate of the tax benchmark variation because it incorporates a likely behavioural response, with removal of the concessional taxation of both superannuation contributions and earnings leading to reduced superannuation contributions (and lower balances). It is assumed current preservation rules remain. In the accumulation phase, voluntary concessional contributions are assumed to cease (as in C2) and most non concessional contributions also cease after the start date. Over time this reduces the superannuation asset base and thus the revenue gain on withdrawing the earnings tax concession. Additionally, a significant proportion of funds in the retirement phase (not preserved) are withdrawn. Because of other tax concessions for older Australians (particularly the Seniors and Pensioners Tax Offset), the funds withdrawn attract minimal tax in the new investments chosen.							
C2: Concessional taxation of employer superannuation contributions								
Estimates	Revenue forgone estimate (\$m)				Revenue gain estimate (\$m)			
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	17,750	19,100	20,450	22,700	17,050	18,250	19,600	21,700
Reason for difference	Broadly, the revenue gain approach yields a lower estimate of the tax benchmark variation because it incorporates a likely behavioural response, with removal of the concessional taxation of superannuation leading to reduced superannuation contributions. It is assumed that the Superannuation Guarantee remains and therefore compulsory contributions continue. Voluntary contributions are assumed to be directed to alternative tax-preferred investments.							
H26: GST — Food								
Estimates	Revenue forgone estimate (\$m)				Revenue gain estimate (\$m)			
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	7,300	7,500	7,800	8,100	7,100	7,400	7,600	7,900
Reason for difference	Removing the GST exemption applicable to certain types of food would be expected to decrease demand for those items. However, the impact of this behavioural response is expected to be small as demand for GST-free food is likely to be relatively unresponsive to changes in price.							
H14: GST — Education								
Estimates	Revenue forgone estimate (\$m)				Revenue gain estimate (\$m)			
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	4,750	5,050	5,400	5,800	4,250	4,550	4,900	5,200
Reason for difference	Removing the GST exemption for education would be expected to decrease demand for education services, particularly for private education and 'discretionary courses'.							
H17: GST — Health — medical and health services								
Estimates	Revenue forgone estimate (\$m)				Revenue gain estimate (\$m)			
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	4,300	4,550	4,850	5,150	4,250	4,450	4,750	5,050
Reason for difference	Removing the GST exemption for medical and health services would be expected to decrease demand for those services. However, the impact of this behavioural response is expected to be small as demand for medical and health services is likely to be relatively unresponsive to changes in price.							

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H2: GST — Financial supplies — input taxed treatment								
Estimates	Revenue forgone estimate (\$m)				Revenue gain estimate (\$m)			
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	3,600	3,850	4,150	4,400	3,600	3,850	4,150	4,400
Reason for difference	Removing the input taxed treatment of financial services is not expected to materially impact the demand for these services. This is because of the relatively small increase in the price of financial services that would result from applying the normal GST rules and the lack of substitutable services that are available.							
B12: Exemption from interest withholding tax on certain securities								
Estimates	Revenue forgone estimate (\$m)				Revenue gain estimate (\$m)			
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	2,360	2,360	2,360	2,360	1,620	1,710	1,610	1,600
Reason for difference	Removing the exemption from interest withholding tax on certain securities would be expected to result in some borrowers switching to other forms of exempt borrowings, resulting in no revenue gain. In addition, some interest payments may be increased to cover the tax, leading to increased income tax deductions.							
A24: Concessional taxation of non-superannuation termination benefits								
Estimates	Revenue forgone estimate (\$m)				Revenue gain estimate (\$m)			
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	2,300	2,200	2,100	2,000	2,300	2,200	2,100	2,000
Reason for difference	As this tax benchmark variation relates to termination of employment (including cases such as redundancy), it is expected that employees would have limited capacity to alter their employment status if the tax treatment changed. As a result there is no material difference between the revenue forgone and revenue gain estimates.							
A40: Exemption of Family Tax Benefit payments								
Estimates	Revenue forgone estimate (\$m)				Revenue gain estimate (\$m)			
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	1,940	1,960	1,980	2,000	1,940	1,960	1,980	2,000
Reason for difference	Removing the exemption of Family Tax Benefit, Parts A and B could be expected to result in a change in labour force participation; however, the size of the effect is uncertain and has not been quantified. As a result there is no difference between the revenue forgone and revenue gain estimates.							
F22: Customs duty								
Estimates	Revenue forgone estimate (\$m)				Revenue gain estimate (\$m)			
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	-1,500	-1,460	-1,290	-1,130	-1,500	-1,460	-1,290	-1,130
Reason for difference	Under the customs duty benchmark, goods imported into Australia are free from customs duty except to the extent that the duty is equivalent to taxes imposed on domestically produced goods. Bringing the customs duty tax benchmark variation in line with the benchmark would remove the revenue currently collected from tariffs on imports (which is reported as a negative benchmark variation). While the change may increase demand for imported goods, this would have no impact on customs duty revenue once the tax rate has been reduced to zero.							

APPENDIX A: TECHNICAL NOTES

This appendix provides further technical information regarding the reliability of estimates, how unquantifiable tax benchmark variations are reported, detailed information about the benchmark tax treatment used in the Statement and an overview of the various modelling techniques used to quantify tax benchmark variation estimates.

A.1 Reliability

Tax benchmark variation estimates vary in reliability depending on the quality, detail and frequency of the underlying data, the consequent extent to which calculations must be based on assumptions, and the sensitivity of estimates to those assumptions.

Importantly, the Statement reports estimates for future years. In many cases, this unavoidably reduces their reliability because of the inherent uncertainty around forecasts of future economic conditions. Estimates with higher reliability tend to be those where future taxpayer behaviour is relatively more predictable because of longstanding stable trends in the historical data, or where only estimates based on historical data are reported.

The reliability of each tax benchmark variation estimate (where quantified) has been assessed by separately scoring:

- the reliability of the available data;
- the underlying assumptions made where no or insufficient data is available; and
- other relevant factors (for example, the volatility of growth rates over time).

Scores range from 0 (very low) to 3 (high). The three scores are then summed to give an overall reliability rating as set out below.

Score	Rating
0	Very low
1-3	Low
4	Medium – low
5-7	Medium
8	Medium – high
9	High

The reliability of quantified tax benchmark variations in the 2018 Statement is shown in Table A1.

Table A1: Reliability of quantified benchmark variations for 2018-19

Reliability rating	Number of benchmark variations
High	6
Medium — high	13
Medium	65
Medium — low	22
Low	41
Very low	5
Not Applicable	140
Total	292

A.2 Unquantifiable tax benchmark variations

In many cases there is insufficient data to produce a reliable estimate for a tax benchmark variation. While Treasury has access to detailed tax data collected by the Australian Taxation Office from tax returns, the scope of this data is limited by the number and nature of questions on the tax return itself. While expanding the tax return could increase the data available for estimating tax benchmark variations, this would increase compliance costs for taxpayers. Treasury also utilises, for example, Australian Bureau of Statistics data where relevant.

In the 2018 Statement, estimates are not available for 2018-19 for around 48 per cent of tax benchmark variations. Where tax benchmark variations are not quantifiable, an order of magnitude is provided using the categories set out in Table A2.

Table A2: Orders of magnitude

Order of magnitude range	
Category	Expected benchmark variation (\$m)
0	0 on average over reporting period
1	0–10
2	10–100
3	100–1,000
4	1,000 +
NA	not available

Category classifications are provided as a broad guide only. They are based on assumptions and judgment and should be treated with caution.

The category classification also indicates whether a tax benchmark variation is positive or negative. For example, ‘1+’ indicates a positive benchmark variation. Where a benchmark variation could be positive or negative, a ‘+/-’ classification is assigned.

The category assigned to a tax benchmark variation refers to the year the tax benchmark variation is considered to be largest.

A.3 Periodic update of certain benchmark variation estimates

All larger tax benchmark variations estimates, or tax benchmark variations where there has been a significant policy change or there is expected to be significant growth or volatility over the forward estimates period are reviewed annually.

Tax benchmark variations with a value of less than \$200 million in the Budget year and that cannot be quantified are reviewed periodically. Tables A3 and A4 note the items that were not updated in the 2018 Statement and when they will be reviewed. These items were last updated in the 2017 Tax Expenditures Statement.

Table A3: Indicative list of items for review in the 2019 Statement

Code	Benchmark variation title	Code	Benchmark variation title
A2	Exemption of certain income earned by Australians working overseas	B4	Interest withholding tax and dividend withholding tax exemptions for overseas charitable institutions
A5	Exemption from income tax and the Medicare levy for residents of Norfolk Island	B5	Investment Manager Regime
A15	Exemption of income from certain educational scholarships, payments to apprentices or similar forms of assistance	B10	Exemption from accruals taxation system for certain transferor trusts
A21	Medicare levy surcharge lump sum payment in arrears tax offset	B11	Exemption from accruals taxation system for controlled foreign companies
A22	Net medical expenses tax offset	B24	Infrastructure – enhanced loss utilisation for designated projects
A29	Exemption of the Schoolkids Bonus	B30	The 10-year rule for prepayments
A34	Seasonal Labour Mobility Program	B41	Shipping – refundable tax offset for employers of qualifying Australian seafarers
A37	Foreign income exemption for temporary residents	B44	Clarification of the debt or equity treatment of perpetual subordinated debt
A38	Income tax exemption for Australian staff of the Asian Development Bank	B51	Income tax exemptions for foreign superannuation funds
A44	Exemption of payments made under the First Home Owners Grant Scheme	B53	Managed investment trusts — election to allow capital gains tax to be the primary code for disposals of certain assets
A45	Zone tax offsets	B60	Treatment of distributions on certain term subordinated notes
A46	Income averaging for authors, inventors, performing artists, production associates and sportspersons	B61	Treatment of finance leases
A48	Non-commercial losses deductions allowed for certain taxpayers with an adjusted taxable income under \$250,000	B65	Accelerated write-off for horticultural plants
A51	Tax deferral advantage arising from personal after-tax contributions to a pension or annuity	B68	Accelerated write-off for telephone lines and electricity connections
A52	Union dues and subscriptions to business associations deduction	B71	Statutory effective life caps

Table A3: Indicative list of items for review in the 2019 Statement (continued)

Code	Benchmark variation title	Code	Benchmark variation title
B72	Absence of depreciation recapture for certain assets	D35	Long service awards exemption
B74	Depreciation balancing adjustment roll-over relief	D43	Remote area holiday benefits discounted valuation
B76	Depreciation to nil value rather than estimated scrap value	D44	Small business employee car parking exemption
B80	Small business simplified trading stock rules	D45	Taxi travel to or from place of work exemption
B82	Exception to equity interest test for certain related party at call loans	E2	Roll-over for membership interests in medical defence organisations
D8	Reduction in taxable value for education costs of children of employees posted overseas	E11	Concession for non-portfolio interests in foreign companies with active businesses
D11	Exemption for travel costs of employees and their families associated with overseas medical treatment	E15	Discount for investors in listed investment companies
D12	Exemption for accommodation, fuel and meals for live-in employees caring for the elderly or disadvantaged	E16	Exemption for assets acquired before 20 September 1985
D13	Exemption for emergency assistance	E23	Roll-over for assets compulsorily acquired, lost or destroyed
D16	Exemption for meals for primary production employees in remote areas	E27	Roll-over for transfer of assets on marriage or relationship breakdown
D18	Exemption for certain fringe benefits provided to live-in employees providing domestic services to religious institutions and practitioners	F2	Primary industry levy exemptions
D24	Certain relocation and recruitment expenses exemption and reduction in taxable value	H9	Tourist refund scheme
D25	Compassionate travel exemption	H11	Tourism - domestic travel as part of an international arrangement
D27	Discounted valuation for holidays for employees and their families when posted overseas	H21	Supplies of farm land
D34	Loan benefits exemption	H24	Precious metal

Table A4: Indicative list of items for review in the 2020 Statement

Code	Benchmark variation title	Code	Benchmark variation title
A1	Deduction for expenses incurred by election candidates	A10	Australian Defence Force Reserve personnel — exemption of pay and allowances for part-time personnel
A6	Australian Defence Force personnel — exemption of certain allowances	A12	Medicare levy exemption for current and veteran Australian Defence Force personnel and their relatives and associates
A9	Australian Defence Force Reserve personnel — exemption of compensation for loss of pay and allowances	A25	Concessional taxation of unused long service leave accumulated prior to 16 August 1978

Table A4: Indicative list of items for review in the 2020 Statement (continued)

Code	Benchmark variation title	Code	Benchmark variation title
A49	Non-commercial losses exception rules for primary producers and artists	D5	Exemption for benefits received by Australian Government employees in receipt of military compensation payments
A50	Tax concessions for employee share schemes income	D9	Exemption for charities promoting the prevention or control of disease in human beings
A53	Denial of deductions for illegal activities	D17	Exemption for remote area housing and reduction in taxable value for housing assistance
A54	Increased tax rates for certain minors	D22	Australian Traineeship System - exemptions for certain employees
A56	Part-year tax free threshold	D23	Car parking benefits
A59	Car expenses - alternatives to the logbook method	D30	Employer contributions to secure childcare places exemption
A61	Exemption for personal injury annuities	D31	Employer-provided motor vehicle parking exemption
B1	Denial of deductions by businesses for political donations	D33	In-house fringe benefits - reduction in the aggregate taxable value
B3	Exemptions for prescribed international organisations	D36	Minor benefits exemption
B7	Income tax exemption for persons connected with certain US Government projects in Australia	D37	Minor private use of company motor vehicle exemption
B16	Threshold exemption for thin capitalisation	D38	Philanthropy - exemption for donations to deductible gift recipients
B17	Security agency transaction exemption	D39	Police officers - free or discounted travel to and from duty on public transport exemption
B26	Tax exemption for National Rental Affordability Scheme incentives	D40	Private use of business property exemption
B29	Prepayment rule for small business taxpayers and non-business expenditure by individuals	D41	Provision of food and drink in certain circumstances exemption
B33	Deferral or spreading of profit from the forced disposal or death of livestock	D42	Recreational or childcare facilities on an employer's business premises exemption
B36	Spreading of insurance income for loss of timber or livestock	D46	Transport for oil rig and remote area employees exemption
B42	Deductions for boat expenditure	D48	Fringe benefits tax record keeping exemption
B43	Capital gains tax concession for carried interests paid to venture capital partners	D49	Meal entertainment fringe benefits - 50/50 valuation method
B46	Deduction for certain co-operatives repaying government loans	E1	Exemption for valour or brave conduct decorations
B69	Closing stock valuation options for horse breeding stock	E3	Exemptions for special disability trusts
B75	Depreciation pooling for low value assets	E5	Concessions for conservation covenants

Table A4: Indicative list of items for review in the 2020 Statement (continued)

Code	Benchmark variation title	Code	Benchmark variation title
E13	Demerger concessions	G6	PRRT - starting base and uplift rate for capital assets
E18	Exemption for testamentary gifts to deductible gift recipients	H1	Financial supplies - financial acquisitions threshold - input tax credits
E19	Exemption from the market value substitution rule for certain interests in widely held entities	H8	Global roaming by visitors to Australia
E26	Roll-over for statutory licences and water entitlements	H10	Boats for export
F6	Tourism - inwards duty free	H25	Cross-border transport supplies
G2	Crude Oil Excise		

A.4 Benchmarks

Benchmarks represent a standard taxation treatment that applies to similar taxpayers or types of activity.

- Benchmarks may also incorporate structural elements of the tax system; for example, the progressive income tax rate scale for individual taxpayers.

Determining benchmarks involves judgment. Consequently, the choice of benchmark may be contentious and benchmarks may vary over time. The choice of benchmark should not be interpreted as indicating a view on how an activity or taxpayer ought to be taxed.

Broadly, benchmarks comprise the following elements:

- the tax base — the activities or transactions subject to the tax;
- the tax rate — the rate of tax that applies to the base;
- the tax unit — the entity liable to pay the tax; and
- the tax period — the period in which the activities or transactions are undertaken.

INCOME TAX BENCHMARK

The starting point for defining the income tax benchmark is the Schanz-Haig-Simons (SHS) definition of income. Under this definition, income is equal to the increase in an entity's economic wealth (stock of assets) between two points in time plus the entity's consumption in that period. Consumption includes all expenditures except those incurred in earning or producing income.

However, the income tax benchmark departs from the SHS definition of income in places – for example, it does not include unrealised capital gains. The benchmark must also deal with features of the tax system not addressed by the SHS definition – for example, the progressive personal tax rate scale, which is included in the benchmark as it is considered to be a structural feature of the tax system.

Tax base

Under the income tax benchmark, income includes:

- wages and salaries;
- allowances;
- business receipts;
- realised capital gains (except where they form part of the normal trading activities of a business);
- interest, royalties and dividends;
- partnership income;
- government cash transfers; and
- distributions from trusts.

Expenses incurred in earning assessable income are deductible. Where an expense is incurred for both income producing and private purposes, deductions are limited to the portion of expenses relating to income production.

The income tax benchmark incorporates a range of features of the tax system.

- Assessment applies to nominal rather than real income. Expenses incurred in earning income are deductible at historical cost.
- The taxable income of some taxpayers (typically individuals) is assessed on a cash basis – that is, as it is actually received by the taxpayer. The taxable income of other taxpayers (typically businesses) is assessed on an accruals basis – that is, when the right to the income arises (even if it has not yet been received).
- Deductions for expenses related to economic benefits that extend beyond the income year in which the expenditure is incurred are spread over the period of the benefits. This treatment also applies to expenditure in advance (prepayments) for services.

- Imputed rent from owner-occupied housing is not included in income in the estimates presented in Chapter 3. Expenditure incurred in earning imputed rent is not deductible. The impact of including imputed rent in the benchmark tax treatment is discussed in Chapter 2.
- Certain gains, such as gains received by way of compensation for damage or any wrong or injury suffered by a taxpayer (where compensation is not solely responsible for the loss of income), or gains or winnings from gambling (where taxpayers are not considered to be carrying on a business of gambling), are not included in income.
- Losses are deductible against assessable income for a later income year. Losses generally cannot be transferred to other taxpayers, and some losses may only be claimed against certain types of future income.
 - Non-commercial loss rules prevent individuals carrying on unprofitable business activities from claiming deductions for losses arising from such activities against their other income. The denial of losses from non-commercial activities is part of the benchmark.
- Depreciation deductions are made over the effective life of the asset.
- Business capital expenditures not elsewhere recognised within the taxation laws (black hole expenditures) are deductible over five years.
- The mutuality principle excludes income from dealings with oneself or members of mutual associations and societies. For instance, goods produced by taxpayers for their own consumption, or services performed by taxpayers for their own benefit are generally not included in the tax base.
- Arrangements to reduce or eliminate double taxation - for example, the imputation system, which eliminates the double taxation of company profits distributed to resident shareholders.
- The superannuation guarantee charge is not tax-deductible under the benchmark.

Under the income tax benchmark, Australian residents are taxed on their Australian source and foreign source income. The benchmark also incorporates international tax arrangements.

- Resident taxpayers are allowed to claim foreign income tax offsets up to the amount of Australian tax payable on their foreign income. These arrangements ensure foreign source income is not excessively taxed.
- The controlled foreign company and trust rules ensure Australian residents cannot escape or defer taxation of certain income (often passive in nature) by interposing a foreign resident legal entity.

- Transfer pricing and thin capitalisation rules and interest, dividend and royalty withholding taxes aim to tax appropriately Australian sourced income and are included in the benchmark.
- Foreign residents are taxed on their Australian source income only. As part of this benchmark, where foreign income (or foreign capital gains) earned by an Australian entity is subsequently distributed to a foreign resident, the distribution attracts no Australian tax.
- The benchmark for Australian residents includes their worldwide capital gains. For foreign residents, the benchmark includes the limitation of domestic and treaty capital gains tax rules to the direct or indirect disposal of interests in Australian land (and similar interests such as mining rights) and branch office assets (from 12 December 2006).
- Taxation treaties primarily operate to allocate taxing rights over income between the source country of income and the taxpayer's country of residence. However, some articles (by incorporation into Australia's domestic law) have the effect of imposing taxation or determining source. For distributions of Australian source income to foreign residents, the basic rates of Australian tax (typically imposed as withholding tax) prescribed in these treaties in respect of specified classes of income, such as interest, dividend and royalty income, are included in the benchmark as the applicable tax rates.
 - Under this approach, the benchmark rate of interest, dividend and royalty withholding rates will vary depending on whether the country in question has a tax treaty with Australia.
 - If a tax treaty exists, the benchmark rates of withholding tax for a class of income will be the 'basic rate', where the basic rate is the highest rate specified in the treaty for each withholding tax.
 - Exemptions or reductions relative to the basic rates prescribed in a particular tax treaty will give rise to tax benchmark variations.
 - If a tax treaty does not apply, any exemptions or reductions from the standard domestic statutory rates will give rise to tax benchmark variations.

Tax rates

The income tax benchmark includes:

- for resident individuals: the tax-free threshold, the progressive personal income tax rate scale, Low Income Tax Offset, Low and Middle Income Tax Offset, the Medicare levy and, from 2014-15 to 2016-17, the Temporary Budget Repair Levy (TBRL);
- for non-resident individuals: the foreign resident income tax scale, non-eligibility for the Low Income Tax Offset and Low and Middle Income Tax Offset and non-liability for the Medicare levy (although they are liable for the TBRL); and
- for companies: the company tax rate (currently, 30 per cent).

Tax unit

For the personal income tax system in Australia, the benchmark unit is the individual.

For companies, the benchmark tax unit is the company (including the head entity of a consolidated group or a multiple entry consolidated group).

Sole traders, partnerships and trusts are not separate tax units. Income earned by these entities is taxable in the hands of the recipient.

Tax period

Generally, the tax period under the income tax benchmark is the financial year (1 July to 30 June). However, the benchmark also includes arrangements for entities whose accounting period differs from the standard financial year (for example, companies with a substituted accounting period).

Superannuation

Superannuation may be taxed at three stages:

- when contributions are made to a superannuation fund;
- when investments in superannuation funds earn income; and
- when superannuation benefits are paid out.

The income tax benchmark treatment of superannuation is that contributions are made from after-tax income, earnings are taxed at marginal rates and benefits from superannuation are untaxed. Any costs associated with superannuation investments are deductible under the benchmark.

Fringe benefits

Under the income tax benchmark:

- fringe benefits are classified as individual employee income;
- the tax base includes property rights, privileges or services. However, payments of salary or wages, eligible termination payments, contributions to complying superannuation funds and certain benefits arising from employee share schemes are excluded;
- the benchmark value of a fringe benefit to an employee is taken to be its market value less any contribution that the employee pays from after-tax income;
- the tax rate is the employee's marginal income tax rate;
- fringe benefits tax is calculated on the grossed-up taxable value (that is, the pre-tax equivalent value) of the fringe benefit. In some cases, discount valuation methods are available to calculate the taxable value of a fringe benefit. Such methods are reported as tax benchmark variations;
- the tax unit is the employer (as the relevant legislation makes employers liable for the tax);
- generally, employers may claim the cost of providing fringe benefits and the amount of fringe benefits tax paid as income tax deductions; and
- the tax period is the fringe benefits tax year (1 April to 31 March).

INDIRECT TAX BENCHMARKS

The main indirect taxes are:

- the goods and services tax;
- taxes on commodities such as fuel, tobacco, alcoholic beverages and motor vehicles;
- crude oil excise and the Petroleum Resource Rent Tax; and
- miscellaneous taxes such as agricultural levies and the passenger movement charge.

Unlike the income tax benchmark, there is no starting point such as the Schanz-Haig-Simons definition of income for determining the benchmarks for indirect taxes. Each indirect tax therefore has its own benchmark that reflects the standard features of the tax in question. Identifying the standard features of a tax unavoidably involves judgment.

Generally, for each tax, the tax unit under the benchmark is the entity that has the legal obligation to pay the tax.

Goods and services tax

The goods and services tax (GST) is a broad-based consumption tax charged at the rate of 10 per cent. While it is payable at each step of the supply chain, firms are normally able to claim an input tax credit (ITC) for the GST they pay on their inputs.

The supply of certain goods and services is either:

- GST-free – that is, where no GST is payable on the supply and the supplier is entitled to claim ITCs; or
- input-taxed – that is, where no GST is payable on the supply but the supplier cannot claim ITCs (or can only claim reduced credits).

ITCs do not constitute tax benchmark variations as they are an integral part of the GST system, ensuring that the economic incidence of the tax usually falls on final consumers.

Broadly, the tax base for the GST benchmark is the supply of all goods and services in Australia. The definition of ‘goods and services’ is broad and includes, for example, commercial property. Other features of the benchmark tax base include:

- exports are exempt from GST;
- non-commercial activities of governments are exempt from GST;
- the supply of private residential accommodation⁷ is input-taxed (meaning rent is not subject to GST);
- the sale of pre-existing residential premises is input-taxed;
 - the sale of new residential premises and the supply of alterations, additions and improvements to residential premises are subject to GST;
- goods and services supplied to oneself are not subject to GST.

The tax unit for the GST benchmark is the supplier of goods or services (consistent with the legal incidence of the tax). Exceptions include ‘reverse charging’, where the purchaser is liable to pay GST. Reverse charging occurs in limited situations where goods or services are imported (for example, where an overseas supplier itself imports goods into Australia and installs them, this supplier and the Australian purchaser may agree that the purchaser pays the GST).

- The tax rate for the GST benchmark is 10 per cent.

⁷ Including owner-occupied housing and long-term commercial residential accommodation.

- The tax period for the GST benchmark is the financial year (1 July to 30 June).

Fuel

The Australian Government imposes a volumetric tax on the consumption of fuel (that is, tax is charged as a fixed proportion of the quantity sold).

The tax base for the consumption of all fuel (or energy) is split into two activities:

- fuels consumed in an internal combustion engine (that is, primarily for transport use); and
- fuels consumed for a purpose other than in an internal combustion engine (for example, a product that can be used as a fuel in an internal combustion engine but is used in a solvent application or for heating).

The taxation of these activities reflects longstanding and integral features of the tax system whereby excise rates are dependent on whether the fuel is used in an internal combustion engine.

The benchmark excise rates for fuels consumed in an internal combustion engine are the full energy content based rates established using an energy band system and in reference to the rate applying high energy content fuels. The bands used are:

- high energy content fuels, with an energy content of more than 30 megajoules per litre (such as petrol, diesel, biodiesel and aviation fuel);
- medium energy content fuels, with an energy content between 20 and 30 megajoules per litre (such as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and fuel ethanol), and an excise rate approximately two-thirds of that applying to high energy content fuels;
- low energy content fuels, with an energy content of less than 20 megajoules per litre (such as methanol), and an excise rate approximately 45 per cent of that applying to high energy content fuels; and
- liquefied natural gas (LNG) and compressed natural gas (CNG) fuels, which are taxed on a mass basis using a conversion rate of approximately 1.37 litres per kilogram.⁸

Fuels consumed other than in an internal combustion engine are exempt from excise under the benchmark.

⁸ For example, 38.143 cents per litre multiplied by 1.37 litres per kilogram becomes 52.26 cents per kilogram.

Tobacco

The Australian Government imposes a volumetric tax on the consumption of tobacco (that is, tax is charged as a fixed proportion of the quantity sold).

The benchmark for the consumption of tobacco and tobacco products is the excise rate that applies to tobacco by weight of tobacco content.

Alcoholic beverages

The Australian Government imposes volumetric taxes on the consumption of beer and spirits (that is, tax is charged as a fixed proportion of the quantity sold) and an ad valorem tax on the consumption of wine (that is, tax is charged as a fixed proportion of the value of the commodity sold).

The tax base for the consumption of alcoholic beverages is separated into three components based on the types of beverage:

- the consumption of lower alcohol content beverages such as beer;
- the consumption of higher alcohol content beverages (beverages with greater than 10 per cent alcohol content) such as brandy and other spirits (including spirits mixed in ready to drink beverages); and
- the consumption of wine and alcoholic cider.

The taxation of these activities reflects a longstanding feature of the tax system whereby different tax rates apply to beer, spirits and wine.

- The benchmark excise rate for lower alcohol content beverages (for example, beer) is the volumetric excise rate that applies to full strength packaged beer (including the excise-free threshold of the first 1.15 per cent of alcohol).
- The benchmark excise rate for higher alcohol content beverages (for example, spirits) is the volumetric excise rate on spirits other than brandy.
- The benchmark rate for wine and alcoholic cider is the ad valorem wine equalisation tax rate.

Motor vehicles

Generally, motor vehicle purchases are only subject to goods and services tax. Consequently, the luxury car tax is a negative tax benchmark variation.

Customs duties

The customs duty benchmark treats goods imported into Australia as being subject to the same taxes on consumption as domestically produced goods. The main domestic consumption taxes are goods and services tax and excise-equivalent customs duties on tobacco, alcohol and fuel. Customs duty (other than on excise-equivalent goods) therefore constitutes a negative tax benchmark variation.

Natural resources

The natural resources benchmark applies to the offshore extraction of petroleum products (crude oil, natural gas, LPG and condensate) subject to the Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (PRRT). The benchmark does not apply to the extraction of other natural resources.

The benchmark is a 40 per cent tax rate on the economic rents earned on the extraction of these resources. There is a full tax-loss offset which can be utilised by transferring tax losses among commonly owned projects that are subject to the same tax rate. The tax unit is the project interest.

The benchmark also includes immediate expensing of project expenditures. To the extent that losses are carried forward because they cannot be utilised immediately, they are uplifted at the long-term government bond rate (a proxy for the risk-free rate). The uplift rate compensates investors for the delay in the recognition of the tax credit and preserves the value of the tax credit over time. A refund of unutilised tax credits is available when the project closes down.

Crude oil excise is payable in respect of certain petroleum production, and is creditable against the project's PRRT liabilities. Where this occurs, the crude oil excise paid in a period is treated as a prepayment of the PRRT liability for that period. To the extent that the tax prepayment exceeds the PRRT liability in a year, a negative tax benchmark variation arises for the year, while credits for overpayments recouped in subsequent years would count as positive tax benchmark variations in those years.

Passenger Movement Charge

The Passenger Movement Charge is a flat charge imposed on persons upon their departure from Australia. Exemptions from the charge create a tax benchmark variation.

Visa Application Charges

From 1 July 2015, Visa Application Charges (VAC) have been treated as taxation revenue, rather than sales of goods and services, to reflect a change in the nature of this revenue item.

VAC are set such that all visa applicants with similar characteristics, applying for the same visa, pay the same charge. The benchmark tax treatment is taken equivalent to the current charges levied.

Primary industry levies

Primary industry levies provide collective industry funding for activities such as research and development, promotion and marketing, residue testing and plant and animal health programs. The levies are levied on the volume or value of the relevant type of produce. Exemptions from levies create tax benchmark variations (except exemptions for products which are unfit for human consumption or exemptions for products used by the producer for domestic purposes).

Major bank levy benchmark

From 1 July 2017, the benchmark for the major bank levy has been taken to be equivalent to the levy as outlined in the *Major Bank Levy Act 2017* (the Act).

The levy applies to Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions (ADI) with total liabilities of greater than \$100 billion, with the threshold indexed to grow in line with nominal GDP. The levy is imposed at a rate of 0.015 per cent on certain liabilities of the ADI that are reported to the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority on a quarterly basis. For further detail on the certain liabilities please see the Act.

A.5 Modelling tax benchmark variations

This section provides an overview of the various modelling techniques used in the Statement to estimate the value of tax benchmark variations.

The methods used to calculate the estimates of individual tax benchmark variations in this statement vary. The appropriate approach is determined by the nature of the tax benchmark, the particular tax concession examined and the availability of data. Data availability is a major factor influencing the reliability of the estimates and, in many cases, estimates are not provided owing to data limitations.

The approaches used to estimate tax benchmark variations include aggregate modelling, distributional modelling and microsimulation. The approach most commonly used is distributional modelling.

AGGREGATE MODELLING

This approach involves using information on the aggregate volume of transactions to calculate the value of a particular tax concession. Aggregate modelling is an appropriate approach for estimating tax exemptions or concessions where the impact can be represented as a simple proportion of the total transactions concerned. Data sources suitable for aggregate modelling include national accounts data, trade and production statistics, and aggregates derived from administrative databases (such as taxation records).

Table A5: Large measured tax benchmark variations modelled using an aggregate approach

Code	Benchmark variation title	Code	Benchmark variation title
A17	Exemption of the Private Health Insurance Rebate	C4	Concessional taxation of superannuation entity earnings
A19	Medicare levy exemption for residents with taxable income below the low-income thresholds	C6	Deductibility of life and total permanent disability insurance premiums provided inside of superannuation
A26	Exemption for National Disability Insurance Scheme amounts	D10	Exemption for public and not-for-profit hospitals and public ambulance services
A27	Exemption of Child Care Assistance payments	D14	Exemption for public benevolent institutions (excluding hospitals)
A39	Exemption of certain income support benefits, pensions or allowances	E14	Discount for individuals and trusts
A40	Exemption of Family Tax Benefit payments	E30	Small business 50 per cent reduction
A57	Philanthropy - deduction for gifts to deductible gift recipients	F7	Concessional rate of excise levied on aviation gasoline and aviation turbine fuel
B2	Local government bodies income tax exemption	F22	Customs duty
B12	Exemption from interest withholding tax on certain securities	H2	Financial supplies - input taxed treatment
B73	Capital works expenditure deduction	H5	Child care services
C3	Concessional taxation of personal superannuation contributions	H6	Water, sewerage and drainage
E6	Main residence exemption	H14	Education
E7	Main residence exemption - discount component	H17	Health - medical and health services
C1	Concessional taxation of capital gains for superannuation funds	H18	Health - residential care, community care and other care services
C2	Concessional taxation of employer superannuation contributions	H26	Food

DISTRIBUTIONAL MODELLING

This approach involves using discrete aggregate data to calculate the impact of tax concessions on particular segments of the economy. Distributional modelling is an appropriate approach for estimating concessions that vary according to the characteristics of the taxpayer. Data sources suitable for distributional modelling include survey data and data derived from administrative databases.

Distributional modelling is used to estimate tax benchmark variations for personal income tax concessions when the cost is related to a taxpayer's taxable income. For these concessions, data on income distribution and tax concessions by grade of taxable income can be used to estimate the cost of tax benchmark variations for those concessions. No large measured tax benchmark variation was estimated primarily using a distributional approach in the 2018 Statement.

MICROSIMULATION

This approach involves examining detailed datasets, such as taxpayer records, to determine the value of taxable transactions for each taxpayer. The value of the tax benchmark variation is the difference between the tax paid on those transactions under the concession and the tax that would have been collected under the benchmark. Microsimulation modelling requires either a comprehensive database of all taxpayers or a detailed sample that is representative of the population. The data must provide sufficient detail on the value of transactions affecting the calculation of tax liabilities to allow the required calculations.

Microsimulation modelling is used to estimate tax benchmark variations that closely target particular taxpayer groups (for instance, benefits subject to detailed eligibility tests) and concessions where the payment rate varies considerably according to taxpayer behaviour or circumstance.

Microsimulation modelling can also be used to derive key information, such as average effective tax rates, which can be used in other models that employ aggregate or distributional modelling. This is appropriate for situations where detailed datasets are not available for all items.

Table A6: Large measured tax benchmark variations modelled using microsimulation

Code	Benchmark variation title	Code	Benchmark variation title
A24	Concessional taxation of non-superannuation termination benefits	F11	Higher rate of excise levied on cigarettes not exceeding 0.8 grams of tobacco
B52	Lower company tax rate		

REVENUE FORGONE ESTIMATES – DOUBLE COUNTING AND CLAWBACKS

Treatment of imputation

The value of some concessions reported in this statement is partially offset as a result of the imputation system. For example, concessions that reduce company tax may be clawed back through the subsequent taxation of dividends in the hands of shareholders. The estimates in this statement generally make no allowance for this clawback owing to the practical difficulties of doing so.

Income tax clawback

In addition, the value of some tax benchmark variations can include an income tax clawback. An income tax clawback will occur when a taxpayer's taxable income is affected by the operation of a particular tax benchmark variation.

For example, an income tax clawback can occur in respect of taxes that are deductible for income tax purposes and that are not passed on to final consumers through higher prices. That is, while a tax benchmark variation may offer a concession to a group of taxpayers or type of activity, if that concession were removed, there would be a resulting increase in deductible expenses and decrease in income tax paid that would partially offset the additional tax liability.

Tax benchmark variation estimates for consumption taxes generally do not include an income tax clawback as consumption taxes are usually assumed to be passed onto final consumers, resulting in no change to the taxable income of the taxpayer. Tax benchmark variation estimates for other taxes can include an income tax clawback where the tax is assumed to be borne by the taxpayer.

Capital gains tax estimates

Under the income tax benchmark as it applies to CGT, nominal capital gains are fully taxable upon realisation. The 50 per cent discount for capital gains realised by resident individuals and trusts, which affects most capital gains realised by these entities, is a variation against this benchmark.

Individuals and trusts may also be eligible for other CGT concessions. The revenue forgone methodology that is generally used in this statement implies that estimates for these other CGT concessions should be calculated against the benchmark of full taxation of nominal capital gains.

To avoid double counting, the values of tax benchmark variations for other CGT concessions are reduced by the CGT discount component and the discount component of these other concessions is included in the tax benchmark variation for the CGT discount (E14). This modification to the tax benchmark variation methodology provides more realistic estimates of the value of the benefits taxpayers receive from capital gains concessions in aggregate, though it has the effect of understating the value of individual CGT tax benchmark variations other than the discount.

A.6 Accrual estimates

Like budget revenue estimates, tax benchmark variations estimates are prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Government Finance Statistics standards for accrual accounting.

Broadly, tax benchmark variations arising from the following taxes use the Tax Liability Method (TLM) method of accrual accounting:

- individuals and other withholding taxation;
- company income taxation; and
- superannuation taxation.⁹

Under TLM, taxation revenue is accounted for at the time a taxpayer makes a self-assessment or when an assessment of a taxation liability is raised by the relevant authority (such as the Australian Taxation Office).

Tax benchmark variations arising from indirect taxes, natural resource taxes and fringe benefits tax use the Economic Transactions Method, under which tax revenue is recognised in the reporting period in which the taxpayer earns the income in question.

⁹ These three forms of taxation also incorporate capital gains taxation.

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