

My submission does not go into details of the Tax Review White paper, rather I want to express my strong annoyance at the lack of fortitude by a Government that prides itself as being a leader of reform, but then dodges consideration of the politically unpopular issues.

If the Government is serious about taxation reform then it can't simply state that a number of key issues are not to be the subject of debate. The Labor Government nobbled the Henry tax review (2008) by excluding the GST from consideration, now the Coalition has excluded consideration of negative gearing, superannuation tax breaks for the wealthy, capital gains, the inclusion of the family home in the asset test for pensioners, as well as the rate and extent of the GST.

Is the sound economic modelling undertaken by the Grattan Institute, the Australia Institute and others just going to be ignored while the Prime Minister and his Treasurer order the bureaucracy to tinker about at the edges?

If the Government is not seriously looking at the whole spectrum of taxation then it may as well give the Tax Review a miss.