

Trevor Forshaw

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Director
Corporate Tax Policy Unit
Treasury
Langton Cres Parkes ACT 2600

By email: frankeddistconsult@treasury.gov.au

Dear Director,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a response to the consultation on the proposed legislation relating to Franked Distributions and Capital Raising. I object to the proposed legislation changes. I believe the draft legislation is inequitable to Australian companies and shareholders and it could inadvertently impact situations of legitimate company operations.

The draft legislation fails to recognise the fundamental principle underlying the franking regime and the reason for its creation, the avoidance of double taxation on company earnings. The Franked Distribution and Capital Raising draft legislation, if widely applied, will lead to the demise of the franking system. It will stop Australian companies who issue new shares under a Dividend Reinvestment Plan (DRP) from paying franked dividends and significantly increase the cost of capital for all franked dividend paying Australian companies.

It will also risk the stability and integrity of the Australian banking system by inhibiting effective capital raising during challenging economic periods such as the start of the coronavirus pandemic. If passed, its application would also unfairly burden Australian investors with retrospective tax debts, to be paid at a time of economic uncertainty.

I am particularly concerned with the retrospective element of the legislation. Whilst I understand that a previous government has indicated that they legislate this never occurred and subsequent announcements would indicate that the intention had been dropped.

As a self-funded retiree who dealing with low interest rates and inflation the spectre of uncertainty around retrospective tax debts is concerning and unfair.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Forshaw