

Director  
Corporate Tax Policy Unit  
Corporate and International Tax Division  
Treasury  
Langton Cres  
Parkes ACT 2600

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By email: [OMSBBpublicconsultation@treasury.gov.au](mailto:OMSBBpublicconsultation@treasury.gov.au)

Dear Director,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a response to the consultation of the Treasury Laws Amendment (Off-Market Share Buy-Backs) Bill 2022.

**I object to the proposed changes** and believe the draft legislation is unfair to Australian companies, all shareholders.

**Particularly it is unfair to all Australian workers who are investing in their superannuation.**

Treasury Laws Amendment (Off-Market Share Buy-Backs) Bill 2022, if applied, will weaken and **commence the erosion of the franking system.**

Off-market share buy-backs and selective reductions of capital are important and established capital management tools for Australian companies and their boards. Any changes to these proven practices will negatively impact Australian companies' capital management choices and have unintended consequences.

***"I can confirm that Labor has heard that message clearly, and that we will not be taking any changes to franking credits to the next election." Anthony Albanese 2021***

**How can Australians ever trust Treasury**, politicians, and the political system to provide consistent and sound management of the country's financial system when proposed changes have little basis other than to pave the way for future major changes to our franking credit system.

Changes such as these are purely to undermine a currently effective and fair system, and to restrict companies from having the flexibility to manage their finances while providing returns to shareholders, investor and superannuation funds.

**Companies and shareholders will adapt**, changing their structures and strategies, the end result will be a weaker and more complex system. Changes also discourage investment in Australian companies and will result in a larger percentage of off-shore investment.

**Are you seriously encouraging off-shore investment over and above local investment.**

If there is no recognition for tax already paid, double taxation becomes applicable, making the single taxation of overseas investment strategies far more attractive.

You need to apply sound and consistent strategies, benefiting all Australians and **not one-off populist, naive changes as an underhanded attempt to implement wholesale changes to the existing franking system.**

Yours sincerely, D Obelt