

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

By email: 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 have been an investor in Australian companies and equities for 50 years, following in my father's footsteps. From my memory, although a humble farmer, he always bought and read the Australian Financial Review, and took an avid interest in investments that were in his area of expertise and familiarity.

I frequently get surprised and disappointed when people, after finding out that I own some Australian shares, often comment that they had a bit of a dabble or a bit of a gamble in the past. Share investing for most Australians, should not be a gamble, but an opportunity to invest in the best, most important and most successful businesses our country supports.

When I buy shares, I am an investor, and mostly for the very long term. I own a small portion of that company. And as such, I am entitled to a small portion of the profits that are generated. I am a part of the company. If I happen to be in a low income bracket, any tax that is paid by that company is tax that I have contributed to, and the tax should be rebated. This system operates in real estate negative gearing, partnerships, trusts and in other business structures. It is not reasonable that 'Shares' are singled out for discriminatory treatment.

If Australians are to take their investments in Australia's industry seriously, then treat them accordingly.

Please note: If a person invests as a share trader, the landscape is of course quite different.

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

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

I believe that both the proposed changes fail to recognise the fundamental principle underlying the franking system and the reason for its creation, being the avoidance of double taxation on

company earnings. If passed, the proposed changes will unfairly target retail investors, low-income investors and superannuation beneficiaries, while limiting companies' abilities to effectively manage their own capital.

I believe Treasury and Government are underestimating the long lasting and broad-reaching impact these changes will have on Australia and we ask you to re-consider making any changes.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Norton