



Allegra Spender MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WENTWORTH

14 April 2023
The Hon. Dr Jim Chalmers MP
Treasurer
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Treasurer,

Jim

I write to raise a number of issues with you relating to last month's tax roundtable, spending integrity, and how to make it easier for business to implement government regulatory changes.

Tax roundtables

I would like to formally acknowledge my appreciation for you sending staff to the Expert Roundtable on Tax Reform, which I hosted in Parliament last month. The feedback was positive and I hope your staff felt it was a useful discussion.

This was the first of a series of roundtables we will hold over the course of 2023, bringing together other tax experts and policymakers with business, community, social sector and union groups. Our goal is to build as much consensus as possible around what we would like the broad shape of the tax system to look like in 2035, while being relatively agnostic as to the exact level of spending.

As this develops, I would appreciate an opportunity to brief you and your staff on this, as well as continue to invite your staff in any of the roundtables.

Spending integrity

Given the highly uncertain economic environment we face at present, and mounting concerns over the size and persistence of the Budget's structural deficit and the Commonwealth's debt burden, I think it is important to consider institutional changes that would help to improve the quality and integrity of public spending.

I support your desire to measure well-being in the budget, and think this could be a framework for a much stronger focus on the outcomes of government spending and its effectiveness. My interest in this is sparked by time working in a public teaching hospital in the UK, where my role was to improve the quality of care for patients, while either saving money or holding budgets steady.

Economic evaluation is one of the most useful tools available to policymakers and it is regrettably underutilised by the Commonwealth. Although economic evaluation forms part of the impact analysis process recommended for new policy initiatives by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, a review of the published analyses suggests that it is not consistently used or used to a sufficiently high standard. The perception certainly seems to be that these evaluations are little more than a box-ticking exercise to be undertaken once policy decisions have already been made.

Properly done, periodic economic evaluation of new — and, more importantly, existing — programs



Allegra Spender MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WENTWORTH

offers an opportunity to clearly establish the net benefits of each activity by government, demonstrating where the government is providing value for public money and where there is a need for programs to be reformed, cut back, or sunsetted. The identification of reliable, comparable benefit-cost ratios (BCRs) offers an opportunity for economic policymakers, such as yourself, to make better informed decisions about resource allocation within and between government departments. This could unlock productivity improvements right across the public sector, as public funds are invested in the activities which create the greatest impact and value for the community.

Transparent use of BCRs as a tool for guiding government activity could also transform policy debates, providing greater depth and rigour to discussions about various policy options, and would also encourage use of pilot programs to test impact before national implementation.

Significant work would be required before economic evaluation could be adopted at scale, which the Government could support in as a long-term investment in improving spending integrity. It could have a considerable impact on the public sector and the policy outcomes enjoyed by the community.

Regulatory Initiatives Grid

In its first year, the Albanese Government has legislated a number of reforms which affect the business community and which will generally have a positive impact on our country, and I am aware that there are more to come. However, the pace of reforms has placed considerable strain on some sectors and there is concern that changes are not being settled before another reform cycle begins.

There is an opportunity to improve the sequencing of reform so that businesses are able to genuinely consult with reforms prior to the introduction of legislation and to stage their implementation so businesses are not, for example, managing significant industrial relations at the same time as significant change in their operations or governance activities.

The UK Government has adopted a Regulatory Initiatives Grid to help manage reforms within the country's financial sector. This is led by the Financial Conduct Authority in conjunction with other UK Treasury portfolio agencies, and essentially involves mapping of the regulatory reform pipeline and sequencing reform activity so that entities or functional areas within the sector are not trying to consult on or implement multiple, complex, high-impact reforms simultaneously. Although the Grid is an imperfect tool, it nonetheless appears to have been a useful coordination device.

I would strongly encourage the Government to consider how a tool like this could be deployed within an Australian context, potentially initially being applied to the financial sector but eventually being rolled out more broadly. I believe this would help to ensure businesses are more involved with the policymaking process and also have the greatest-possible opportunity for implementing reforms to achieve desirable policy outcomes.



Allegra Spender MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WENTWORTH

I hope you will consider these suggestions in good faith, and would like to express my appreciation for you making time to meet with myself (as well as other members of the crossbench) to discuss our ideas and concerns.

Yours sincerely,

s 47F



Allegra Spender MP

Independent Member for Wentworth



6th August, 2022
The Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP, Treasurer
The Hon Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT, 2600

By email: jim.chalmers.mp@aph.gov.au; chris.bowen.mp@aph.gov.au

Re: Treasury Laws Amendment (Electric Car Discount) Bill 2022

Dear Treasurer, Minister Bowen,

Decarbonising Australia's transport system is critical to achieving the Australia's emissions reduction target, improving our energy security, and reducing household bills in the medium term.

The shift to cleaner, greener, zero emissions vehicles will not be easy, and requires a significant effort from across government. Fuel efficiency and fuel quality standards, charging infrastructure, and financial incentives are just some of the broad range of measures that will be needed. With global supply likely to be constrained for several years to come, Australia must act immediately and decisively to create a viable mass market for zero emissions vehicles.

The electric car discount bill represents a step in the right direction. However, having consulted with experts and industry representatives, we feel several enhancements could be made to the legislation. These are intended to provide greater stimulus to the zero emissions vehicle market and to prevent further federal government subsidies to primarily fossil fuel-based means of transport. Specifically, these include:

- 1) Providing that imported second-hand vehicles, which meet the battery electric vehicle (BEV) and fuel cell electric vehicle (FCEV) criteria and were manufactured on after 1 January 2019, are included in scope of the exemption for their first registration in Australia;
- 2) Providing for the exemption to apply to a car benefit for a minimum of 3 years starting on the first day when a person both held and used the car;
- 3) Including in scope of the exemption cars that are liable for payments under the Luxury Car Tax Act 1999, but capping the benefit they can receive at the maximum level that can be claimed for a car priced under the threshold of \$84,916;
- 4) Providing for home charging infrastructure to be included in scope of the exemption;
- 5) Removing plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) from the scope of the exemption. This is because, when used as a company car, PHEVs are driven only a small minority of the time as electric and their inclusion in scope of this exemption therefore primarily represents a subsidy for fossil fuel-based transport; and
- 6) Mandating for a review of this act in three years' time.

Australia lags our international peers on EV uptake and the government must be ambitious in its efforts to stimulate the market. Given the progress of the bill through the lower house this week, we kindly request an urgent meeting with your offices to discuss the above amendments and how we can work together to improve this legislation. Several other members of the crossbench have also expressed an interest in improving this legislation and therefore we kindly request that the whole of the crossbench is invited to such a joint meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Signed electronically to avoid delay.

Kind regards,
Allegra Spender MP, Sophie Scamps MP, Kylea Tink MP

Allegra Spender

WENTWORTH'S INDEPENDENT

136 New South Head Road, Edgecliff, 2027
www.AllegraSpender.com.auThursday 16th June, 2022**RE: Request for briefing from Treasury officials**

Dear Minister Chalmers,

Congratulations on your appointment and on Labor's election victory. The next parliament will be the most diverse in history and we have a historic opportunity to work together to achieve meaningful change on areas such as climate change, economic reform, and integrity. I look forward to working with you and colleagues from across the house on these important issues.

I wanted to write to you to request a briefing from the Treasury Secretary or officials within your department. Whilst I received extensive advice during the campaign, the significant headwinds facing Australia will demand a new level of cooperation and scrutiny on economic policy. I would therefore like to ensure I am well-prepared for the upcoming parliamentary session and continue to be well-placed to contribute to this collective effort.

As background, my own training is in economics, and I have been running businesses for the last decade. My campaign focused extensively on the importance of delivering a future-focused economy, particularly regarding innovation and productivity, seizing the economic opportunities from climate change, and responsible fiscal management. I am therefore particularly keen to work constructively with the government on these issues during the parliament.

My suggestion would be to keep the briefing relatively broad, focusing on the overall economic and federal budget outlook. However, I will of course be guided by yourself and your officials on whether there are additional or alternative topics that would be relevant and appropriate. I understand the many demands on your staff and would therefore ensure the time was spent constructively.

More generally, once the next parliamentary session has commenced, I would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the areas where we can work together in the coming three years. I can be contacted or ^{s 47F}

Thank you in advance for considering my request. I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

s 47F

Allegra Spender



A better climate for Wentworth

s 22



From: Spender, Allegra (MP) s 47F
Sent: Sunday, April 30, 2023 11:43:40 PM (UTC+00:00) s 47F
To: s 47E(d) @aph.gov.au>; s 47E(d) @aph.gov.au>; s 47E(d) @aph.gov.au>; s 47E(d) @aph.gov.au>; s 47E(d) @aph.gov.au>
Subject: Invitation Mother's Day Breakfast hosted by Motherless Daughters Australia - 7.30am 11th May

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to invite you to a Mother's Day breakfast hosted by Motherless Daughters Australia.

What: **Mothers' Day Breakfast**

When: **7.30am Thursday 11 May**

Where: **Dame Dorothy Tangney Alcove**

MDA supports women, girls and families in navigating the emotional distress caused by the loss of their mothers and Motherless Awareness Week runs from 7-13 May, providing support to women ahead of Mothers' Day, which can be one of the most challenging days of the year.

The Minister for Women, Senator the Hon. Katy Gallagher, will be speaking at the Breakfast. It is open to everyone – parliamentarians and staff, men and women – but seats are limited so please RSVP to s 47F @aph.gov.au or s 47F @motherlessdaughters.com.au by Wednesday 3 May.

Those unable to attend are encouraged to wear an Angel Wings pin acknowledging mother loss, which will be available from the Whips offices and at the Breakfast.

Kind regards,

Allegra



Allegra Spender MP
 FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WENTWORTH



Allegra Spender MP

Member for Wentworth

🌐 s 47F

☎ 02 9327 3988

✉ PO Box 545, Edgecliff NSW 2027

📍 302, Level 3, 179-191 New South Head Rd, Edgecliff NSW 2027

Our team acknowledge and pay deep respect to the diverse First Nations communities, the Traditional Custodians, Elders past, present and emerging, on whose country we work.



PARLIAMENTARY EVENT

Mother's Day Breakfast

We warmly invite you to attend the inaugural Mothers Day sit-down hot breakfast at Parliament House. Coinciding with Mother Loss Awareness Week, join members of our community to raise awareness about the support available to those who have experienced mother loss.

Thursday 11th May • 7:30am - 9am • Dame Dorothy Tangney Alcove
RSVP's are essential as spaces are limited: RSVP by Wednesday, 3 May 2023 (COB) to s47f@motherlessdaughters.com.au



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher is the Minister for Finance, Minister for Women, Minister for the Public Service



With our MP Ambassador and guest speaker, Federal Member for Wentworth, Allegra Spender MP.

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



HER WINGS PIN

Motherless Awareness Week is May 7-13

To honour the the 3.9 million women in Australia that will not have a mother to spoil on Mother's Day, we invite you to wear our Her Wings pin.

We recognise and acknowledge that the lead up to Mother's Day and Mother's Day itself, can be an incredibly sad and isolating time for anyone who has experienced mother loss.

Thank you, from the Motherless Daughters Australia community.



We also invite you to share one of our social media tiles to your platforms.



**Motherless
Daughters**
AUSTRALIA



**Motherless
Daughters**
AUSTRALIA



28 April 2023

Dear Senators, Members and Staff,

Re: Motherloss Awareness Week and Invitation to attend Motherless Daughter's Australia Inaugural Mother's Day breakfast

I am writing to extend a warm invitation to you to join Motherless Daughters Australia at their inaugural Mother's Day breakfast at Dame Dorothy Tangney Alcove, Parliament House, on 11 May 2023 from 7.30am-9am.

Motherless Daughters Australia (MDA) is a community of women who have experienced the loss of their mothers. The breaking of the mother/daughter bond can have a lasting impact on the lives of daughters and families. In Australia, around 3.7 million women are dealing with this loss and 1.2 million of these daughters lost their mum before the age of 44.

Our community helps women, girls, and families navigate the emotional distress and lifelong impact caused by the loss of their mothers. We believe that with the right support, guidance and resources, motherless daughters feel less alone and more supported in their life journey.

For us, it goes beyond care and support, it's about raising awareness in the community of the often-overlooked impacts of mother loss. The more that families, friends and colleagues are aware of what to look out for, the more we can support daughters in coping with the loss of one of life's most precious relationships.

Mother's Day can be a particularly challenging time for women who have lost their mums. The milestone can serve as reminder of who/what we have lost, and can bring up feelings of sadness, grief and even anger. It can be difficult to see others celebrating with their mothers and be subjected to the onslaught of commercialisation of the event which is often triggering. Motherless daughters often feel a sense of isolation or loneliness and can struggle to find ways to honour their mothers in the absence of their physical presence. It's important to remember that everyone's grief journey is different, and to offer compassion and support to those who may be struggling during this time.

For this reason, Motherloss Awareness Week runs from 7 May - 13 May and we invite you to wear our angel wings pin to acknowledge those without mums in the lead up to Mother's Day.

You can also help us to tap into the 3.7 million women we desperately wish to reach by sharing our social media tiles on your social media platforms. Currently, our community comprises 13,000 people, so we have a long way to go.

We thank you for your support and hope to see you at our event on 11 May.

Please RSVP to either s47f@aph.gov.au or to s47f@motherlessdaughters.com.au by Wednesday, 3rd May 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Allegra Spender MP
Federal Member for Wentworth

Danielle Snelling
CEO
Motherless Daughters Australia

www.motherlessdaughters.com.au