

FOREWORD



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I am pleased to present the 'Review of Aspects of Income Tax Self Assessment' discussion paper, as foreshadowed in my press release of 24 November 2003.

The discussion paper outlines a range of issues and approaches for refining the operation of Australia's income tax self assessment system. In doing this, the paper examines whether the right balance has been struck between protecting the rights of individual taxpayers and protecting the ability of the Australian Taxation Office to collect revenue.

The development of the discussion paper has benefited from consultations with interested parties. At this stage of the review, I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude for this valuable assistance.

I encourage all interested parties to take the opportunity to put forward their views on potential refinements to the income tax self assessment system, by making contact with the Review team or providing a written submission. These views will assist the Government in considering all issues, before making decisions on these matters.

The Government has introduced sweeping reforms to modernise the Australian tax system to make it fairer and more sustainable. The Government is also determined to ensure that the income tax self assessment system best serves the needs of the Australian community. This paper represents another example of the Government's commitment to achieving this goal.

PETER COSTELLO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P Costello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

March 2004

