

INSERT YOUR LETTERHEAD/ADDRESS

13 September 2018

The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP
The Treasurer
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA
department@treasury.gov.au

Dear Treasurer,

Re: the Treasury Laws Amendment (Reducing Pressure on Housing Affordability Measures No. 2) Bill 2018

Congratulations on your appointment as Treasurer of Australia. I write to you as a member of the international Australian diaspora who play a critical role in securing the nation's economic prosperity in a global marketplace. I also write as a proud Australian.

I would urge you take a fresh look at the unintended consequences of an amendment **(the Treasury Laws Amendment (Reducing Pressure on Housing Affordability Measures No. 2) Bill 2018)** which potentially deals a devastating blow to those of us living and working globally. This amendment also makes it harder for Australian corporates to transfer staff overseas.

The above bill has been passed by the House of Representatives and is now before the Senate. We believe there is still an opportunity for you to act. Indeed, following recent representations by the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, the Shadow Treasurer has also called on the Government to review the impact of this legislation on non-resident Australians. As an Australian living and working in Hong Kong, I urge you to consider the crippling impact of the above proposed legislative amendment on myself **[and my family]. INSERT PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES HERE.**

OR:

{As an Australian business seeking to recruit talent from Australia, this amendment will make it more difficult for my business to make overseas postings attractive to high potential talent.}

The Federal Government's *2017 Foreign Policy White Paper* makes much of the importance of the "globalised world of individuals", arguing that our soft power "enables Australians and Australian institutions to speak with confidence and with credibility on the world stage". This is due to the thousands and thousands of us who are part of the nation's global workforce. We underpin the billions of dollars of trade and investment that Australia generates through our on-the-ground contribution and people-to-people engagement. Further, the Australian economy benefits significantly when we return home bringing with us invaluable international experience and expertise, building a strong sustainable future for the nation.

This proposed amendment hits us hard and penalises us, as Australians, for being part of the Asia growth story. This amendment would mean that the many thousands of Australians living overseas would be hit by Capital Gains Tax (CGT) on our principal place of residence, **levied from the date of purchase**, should we be forced to sell our home while abroad. Any number of unplanned life circumstances can hit us all - divorce, bereavement, illness or job loss – forcing us to sell the family home regardless of where we live.

If I [**or my husband/wife**] died while overseas, my family home – which would form the bulk of the estate – would incur the same CGT, imposing a punishing burden at a time of bereavement. If I were to die in Australia, my family would be better off. Surely this is not the intention of an amendment which is meant to target housing affordability. In short, this amendment would deliver a crushing blow.

We urge you, Mr Treasurer, to apply a fresh commonsense review of the bill as it currently stands. I ask that you consider its unintended consequences for the sake of the nation's future place in an increasingly globalised world. We urge you not to penalise me [**and my family**] for being part of the Australian international marketplace.

Yours Sincerely,

INSERT YOUR DETAILS HERE