

BOARD OF TREASURERS

COMMUNIQUE

1 October 2020

STATE SPENDING AND DEBT MANAGEMENT TO SUPPORT CORONAVIRUS RECOVERY

Supporting communities and economic prosperity has always been, and continues to be, a key focus for the Board of Treasurers.

In the current environment of considerable uncertainty for households and businesses, state and territory governments are committed to supporting the community to ensure the welfare of Australians comes first. After protecting public health, job retention and creation is our shared key priority.

In this context, Treasurers are making use of our governments' collective fiscal capacity to provide essential economic support. Sound public finances are an important policy goal that should work to ensure the community's economic and social wellbeing is protected.

The focus on maintaining financially sustainable budgets and the strong credit ratings of all Australian state and territory governments has put us in a strong position to face this once-in-a-century crisis. Consistent with the recent advice provided to National Cabinet by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), we will continue to support the economy during this unprecedented time, while continuing to keep public finances stable.

In good economic times, borrowing should be limited to funding productivity enhancing infrastructure and ensuring sound financial management. However, in a crisis such as this, Governments should support the economy with additional sustainable public investments.

That's why Australian state and territory governments have taken action and deployed significant protective and stimulatory measures. Now is the right time to make these vital investments supported by additional financial assistance from the Australian Government and a manageable increase in borrowings where necessary.

Going forward, we will leverage public investment to drive sustained economic recovery and jobs growth.

The Board of Treasurers will continue to advocate for financially sustainable budgets and an approach that prioritises the long-term health of the economy supported by sustainable borrowing and debt management.



Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP
Treasurer of New South Wales



Tim Pallas MP
Treasurer of Victoria



Hon. Cameron Dick MP
Treasurer of Queensland



Hon. Ben Wyatt MLA
Treasurer of Western Australia



Hon. Rob Lucas MLC
Treasurer of South Australia



Hon. Peter Gutwein MP
Premier and Treasurer of Tasmania



Hon. Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister and Treasurer of the
Northern Territory

Note: This communique has been endorsed by the Board of Treasurers, acknowledging that the Australian Capital Territory Government is currently operating under its caretaker conventions.

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