

TRS18D2007

Hon Stephen Mullighan MP Member for Lee Unit 1, 62 Semaphore Road SEMAPHORE SA 5019 Office of the Treasurer Level 8 State Administration Centre 200 Victoria Square Adelaide SA 5000 GPO Box 2264 Adelaide SA 5001 DX 56203 Victoria Square Tel 08 8226 1866

treasurer.dtf@sa.gov.au

Dear Mr Mullighan

APPLICATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1991

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act), dated 12 October, 2018.

Your application seeks access to:

"All letters, correspondence, briefings, minutes and memos from the Treasurer to South Australian members of the House of Representatives and South Australian Senators between 1 May 2018 and 12 October 2018 inclusive."

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of my determination. An extensive search was conducted within this office. A total of 11 documents were identified as answering the terms of your application.

I grant you access in full to 8 documents, copies of which are enclosed; and

I grant you access in part to 3 documents, copies of which are enclosed. Personal information relating to constituents details have been removed, pursuant to clause 6(1) of the FOI Act.

Please note, in compliance with Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045 - Disclosure Logs for Non-Personal Information Released through Freedom of Information (PC045), the Department of Treasury and Finance is now required to publish a log of all non-personal information released under the Freedom of Information Act 1991.

In accordance with this Circular, any non-personal information determined for release as part of this application, may be published on the DTF website. A copy of

PC045 can be found at the following address: http://dpc.sa.gov.au/what-we-do/services-for-government/premier-and-cabinet-circulars Please visit the website for further information.

As I am determining this application as Principal Officer, Section 29(6) of the Act does not provide for an internal review. If you are dissatisfied with my determination you are entitled to exercise your rights of external review with the Ombudsman.

Alternatively, you can apply to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. If you wish to seek a review, Section 39(3) of the Act states you must do so within 30 calendar days of receiving the determination

If you require any further information, please contact Vicky Cathro on (08) 8226 1866.

Yours sincerely

Hon Rob Lucas MLC

Principal Officer

November 2018

Att.

For Official Use Only – I1 – A1

TRS18D2007

Schedule of Documents

Reason																	
Exemption Clause									6(1) - Unreasonable	disclosure of personal	affairs	6(1) - Unreasonable	disclosure of personal	affairs	6(1) - Unreasonable	disclosure of personal	affairs
Determination Recommendation	Released in full	Released in full	Released in full	Released in full	Released in full	Released in full	Released in full	Released in full		Released in part		* *** ********************************	Released in part			Released in part	
# of pages	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1			2			~		
Description of Document	Letter from Treasurer to Mr Christopher Pyne MP	Letter from Treasurer to Mr Rowan Ramsay MP	Letter from Treasurer to Mr Tony Pasin MP	Letter from Treasurer to Senator Anne Ruston	Letter from Treasurer to Senator Lucy Gichuhi	Letter from Treasurer to Ms Nicolle Flint MP	Letter from Treasurer to Senator David Fawcett	Letter from Treasurer to Senator Simon Birmingham	Letter from Treasurer to Hon Christopher Pyne MP		Letter from Treasurer to Hon Christopher Pyne MP			Letter from Treasurer to Mr Tony Zappia MP			
Date	12/10/2018	12/10/2018	12/10/2018	12/10/2018	12/10/2018	12/10/2018	12/10/2018	12/10/2018	10/06/2018			10 27/05/2018			16/06/2018		
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Mr Christopher Pyne MP C.Pyne.MP@aph.gov.au

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200 Victoria Square
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Dear Mr Pyne

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As you will be aware the SA Liberal Party prior to the recent state election on a number of occasions promised not to support any changes to the current GST deal if it disadvantaged South Australia.

Since the election both the Premier and I have repeated that commitment and indicated our intention to keep that promise.

The State Government's preferred position is to maintain the current funding arrangements which we believe have served South Australia and the nation well.

When the Federal Government first announced its intention to change those arrangements we were given clear and explicit commitments by the former Treasurer and now Prime Minister that no state or territory would be worse off under the proposed changes. I have attached a copy of a number of public statements made by Mr Morrison giving this guarantee.

It is correct that with the assumption made by the Federal Government all States and Territory would be better off over the next 8 years under the scenario provided by the Federal Government.

However the states have modelled a number of alternative scenarios (with different assumptions) where a number of states and territories would be worse off with a significant reduction in GST funding. I have attached a copy of these alternative scenarios.

In one of these scenarios a modest increase of about 15% in the iron ore price would remove any benefit to South Australia.

On behalf of the State Government and South Australia I therefore respectfully ask you to support the 'no worse off guarantee' commitment when you discuss the legislation in your party meetings next week.

Finally can I add a personal note on this proposed legislation as someone who sat down with former Prime Minister John Howard and former Treasurer Peter Costello almost 20 years ago negotiating the GST deal.

The states always accepted that the Federal Government and the Federal Parliament had the ultimate power to change this deal without the support of states and territories.

However for almost 20 years Federal Liberal and Labor Governments have abided by the convention that the deal would not be changed unless all the state and territories agreed with the changes.

I believe the convention has served the nation well and I am fearful that this proposed course of action might do long term damage to the Federation.

Thank you for considering my letter on behalf of the South Australian Government and as always if you would like to discuss this issue please ring me on 0419 867 196.

Kind regards

Rob Lucas Treasurer

LOctober 2018

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Kind regards

Rob Lucas

Treasurer

2 October 2018



Treasurer

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Mr Rowan Ramsay MP rowan.ramsey.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Ramsay

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Rob Lucas

Treasurer

LOctober 2018

The Hon Rob Lucas MLC



Treasurer

Mr Tony Pasin MP tony.pasin.MP@aph.gov.au

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Dear Mr Pasin

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Rob Lucas

Treasurer

LOctober 2018



Senator the Hon Anne Ruston senator.ruston@aph.gov.au

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Rob Lucas Treasurer

12 October 2018

The Hon Rob Lucas MLC



Senator Lucy Gichuhi senator.gichuhi@aph.gov.au Treasurer
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Rob Lucas

Treasurer

し October 2018



Ms Nicolle Flint MP nicolle.flint.mp@aph.gov.au

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Nicelle Dear Ms-Flint

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Senator the Hon David Fawcett senator.fawcett@aph.gov.au

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12 October 2018



Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham senator.birmingham@aph.gov.au

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Rob Lucas

Treasurer

12 October 2018

As Treasurer, Scott Morrison promised all states would be better off

TREASURER: In fact, all states and territories are left better off under the plan.

HOST: So you can guarantee no state will be worse off?

TREASURER: Absolutely, and we do that by making sure the pie that everybody is getting their slice from is bigger.

TODAY SHOW - 5 JULY 2018

HOST: Let's take a look at this promise that no jurisdiction will be worse off. So you're guaranteeing that no-one will be left with less than if they'd stayed with the current model?

TREASURER: That's right and we achieve that by basically making the pie bigger. I mean if we left the pie at the same size then obviously if there was a slightly smaller slice then people would be worse off, but when you make the pie bigger then obviously that slice is bigger, that's the nature of the change.

ABC AM - 5 JULY 2018

TREASURER: So, we're not asking for anyone to agree this week, I think it's a good way to start the conversation but the bottom line rule is we need to change the formula so it's fairer but we also need to ensure that all states are left better off .

SKY NEWS - 5 JULY 2018

TREASURER: Finally, we do it in a way that all States are better off, both now and into the future, by using a method of increasing the overall pool of money that is distributed by the States to include not just the GST but extra money put in by the Commonwealth every year going forward.

PRESS CONFERENCE - 5 JULY 2018

The Turnbull Government is determined to work in cooperation with the States to reach a long-term solution — one that leaves Australia with a more stable and predictable source of revenue for all States, while preserving the best features of our HFE system in terms of equity and leaving all States better off.

GOVERNMENT INTERIM RESPONSE - JULY 2018