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PRIME MINISTER

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS' TASK FORCE ON TAXATION

I have today appointed Senator Brian Gibson to chair a special Government Members' Task Force on Taxation.

The Task Force has been established to assist in the process of public consultation on the Government's plans to reform and modernise the Australian taxation system for the 21st Century.

The Task Force will take public submissions on ways to achieve a fairer, better, more modern tax system. Public submissions should address perceived deficiencies in the current taxation system and possible options for change.

Those making public submissions should bear in mind the Government's view that:

- a. There should be no increase in the overall tax burden;
- b. Any new taxation system should involve major reductions in personal income tax with special regard for the taxation treatment of families;
- c. Consideration should be given to a broad based, indirect tax to replace some or all of the existing indirect taxes;
- d. There should be appropriate compensation for those deserving of special consideration; and
- e. Reform of Commonwealth/State financial relations must be addressed.

The Task Force will submit to the Government summaries of submissions later in the year. The full membership of the Task Force is:

Senator Brian Gibson (Chairman)
Mr Larry Anthony MP
Mr Joe Hockey MP
Senator Sue Knowles
Mr Andrew Southcott MP
Mr Bill Taylor MP
Senator Judith Troeth
Mr Warren Truss MP
Mr Wilson Tuckey MP
Mrs Andrea West MP
Mr Paul Zammit MP
Senator Alan Ferguson (ex officio)

4 September 1997