



Year-End Tax Tips

How to reduce your bill

We are getting near the end of the tax year (30 June), so you might want to consider ways to reduce your business' tax bill.

The two simplest ways to do this are to reduce assessable income or increase deductible expenditure. Either way, the business' taxable income (and thus the amount of tax payable) is reduced.

One way to *reduce assessable income* for the current income year is to delay sending an invoice to a customer until after 30 June, if your business reports income on a cash basis. Of course, cash flow issues may dictate otherwise.

If you are in the process of selling property and the profit will be taxable as a capital gain, you could defer the sale until the next income year – but remember that the liability to pay capital gains tax (**CGT**) arises when you exchange contracts and not on settlement.

You can *increase deductible expenditure* by bringing it forward from the next income year to the current income year. This is particularly useful where an immediate deduction is available — for example, for certain depreciating assets if you are a small business, start-up costs and certain prepaid expenses.

Charitable donations are a good way to increase your deductions. If you are not sure if a donation will be deductible, you can check the deductibility status of charities at <https://www.abn.business.gov.au/Tools/DgrListing>. In certain circumstances, a deduction is available where trading stock is donated. Don't forget to ask for a receipt.

What are the benefits?

If you are a sole trader or a partner in a partnership, the benefits of reducing your taxable income could include:

- reducing your marginal tax rate, for example, from 37% to 30%, or from 30% to 16%; and
- avoiding liability for the Medicare levy surcharge (**MLS**) (at least 1% of your income for MLS purposes) if you do not have appropriate level of private health insurance hospital cover.

Small business instant asset write-off

The instant asset write-off (**IAWO**) threshold for small businesses (aggregated turnover less than \$10 million) is \$20,000 for the current income year (2024–25). This means that a small business can fully deduct the cost of eligible depreciating assets that cost less than \$20,000 (after claiming any GST credit to which the business is entitled) if they are first used or installed ready for use for a taxable purpose by 30 June 2025.

It is proposed that the IAWO threshold for 2025–26 will also be \$20,000, but this measure is not yet law. If it becomes law, the IAWO threshold will revert to the standard amount of \$1,000 from 1 July 2026.

Division 7A issues

If you operate your business through a company, you will need to consider any arrangements between the company and associated entities, such as shareholders and trusts, involving a loan, the forgiveness of a debt or the use of the company's assets, to see if a deemed dividend under Division 7A might arise.

You should ensure that the required minimum yearly repayments (**MYR**) under complying Division 7A loans made before 1 July 2024 are made by 30 June 2025. Appropriate directors' resolutions are needed for any dividends declared by 30 June that will be 'offset' against a shareholder's obligation to make the MYR.

The ATO is continuing to treat unpaid present entitlements (**UPEs**) of corporate beneficiaries as Division 7A loans, as it seeks special leave from the High Court to appeal a recent Full Federal Court decision (the *Bendel* case) that held a UPE was not a loan for the purposes of Division 7A.

Trustee resolutions

If you operate your business through a trust and you wish to make beneficiaries presently entitled to trust income for the 2024–25 income year, you should ensure your trustee resolutions are effective. This includes where you may want to make beneficiaries specifically entitled to franked dividends and capital gains that are included in trust income to stream these amounts.

Note that you do not have to prepare the trust accounts by 30 June to make beneficiaries presently entitled to trust income.

It is important that the trustee:

- makes decisions consistent with the terms of the trust deed. Check that the trust has not vested, as this may impact distribution decisions;
- consider who the intended beneficiaries are and their entitlement to income and capital under the trust deed. If the trustee has made an FTE or interposed entity election (**IEE**), this may have a tax impact on distribution decisions;
- notify beneficiaries of their entitlements to allow beneficiaries to correctly report distributions in their tax returns, preventing trust income from being omitted;
- follows any requirements in the trust deed governing the making of trustee resolutions, including the need to make the resolution in writing and when it is required to be made (there is no standard ATO format). Resolutions making one or more beneficiaries presently entitled to the trust income need to be made by the end of the income year;
- ensures that resolutions are unambiguous; and
- if the trust has capital gains or franked distributions the trustee would like to stream to beneficiaries, confirm the trust deed does not prevent this and that the trustee has complied with the legislative requirements relating to streaming these amounts.

Trustee checklist

To help trustees, the ATO has published a useful checklist in the form of a series of questions.

- Do you have a complete copy of the trust deed?
- Who can you appoint income or capital to?
- Has the trust vested?
- Is there an FTE in force for the trust?
- When do you have to make resolutions?
- Does a resolution have to be in writing?
- Is the wording of your resolution clear and unambiguous?
- Is the entitlement vested?
- Can the entitlement be taken away?
- How should you calculate and report the income of the trust?
- Are you 'streaming' capital gains or franked distributions?
- Are you seeking to 'stream' other types of income?
- Have all entitled beneficiaries quoted their tax file number (**TFN**) to you?



From the ATO

Take charge of your upcoming employer obligations

It is time to review your business' upcoming employer and superannuation obligations. It is important to keep on top of your obligations as an employer. As the end of the financial year approaches, check what you need to do and take note of upcoming key dates.

Superannuation guarantee

- All superannuation guarantee (**SG**) contributions for the June 2025 quarter must be paid by 28 July 2025, in full, on time and to the right fund. For the quarter ending 30 June 2025, the 11.5% SG rate should be applied to salary and wage payments made before 1 July 2025.
- The SG rate increases to 12% on 1 July 2025. This rate applies to payments of salary and wages to employees and certain contractors on and after 1 July 2025, even if some or all of the pay period it relates to is before 1 July 2025.

PAYG withholding

- From 1 July 2025, some pay as you go (**PAYG**) withholding schedules and tax tables will be updated. Use the correct tax tables to work out how much to withhold from your employees' payments. Update your payroll software to withhold, report and pay the correct amount of tax.

Single touch payroll reporting

- A Single Touch Payroll (**STP**) finalisation declaration must be completed by 14 July 2025. This must cover all employees for whom you have paid and reported through STP so they have the right information to lodge their income tax returns.
- Finalise all employees whom you have paid in the financial year, even those you have not paid for a while, like terminated employees.
- If you change payroll software providers, finalise your records before you change. This ensures you and your employees have accurate information during tax time.

Get your deferral request right the first time

A lodgement deferral gives you extra time to lodge a document without incurring a failure to lodge on time (**FTL**) penalty. A lodgement deferral can help your business if it is experiencing exceptional or unforeseen circumstances which impact its ability to lodge on time.

The ATO is seeing an increasing number of lodgement deferral requests that fail to provide enough information or provide only generic information that does not support the reason for the request.

Information that must be provided to support a deferral request includes:

- what the exceptional or unforeseen circumstances are that your business is experiencing;
- when the exceptional or unforeseen circumstances occurred, whether they are ongoing or when they were resolved;
- how those circumstances have affected your business' ability to lodge by the due date;
- why the request is being submitted after the lodgement due date (if applicable).

If sufficient information is not provided, the ATO will be unable to assess the request and it may be declined. Other reasons why a request may be declined are:

- your business has a record of late lodgements, including poor compliance with deferred due dates; and
- the ATO has started lodgement compliance action against your business.

Matters the ATO considers

Matters that the ATO considers when deciding whether it is fair and reasonable to grant your business a deferral include:

- the reason your business is unable to lodge on time;
- the size and structure of your business (large corporate entities are more likely to have the ability and resources to overcome circumstances that might affect their ability to not lodge by the due date);
- the risk to revenue;

- your business' compliance history as a whole (that is, lodgement of taxation returns, activity statements and other documents, payments on time and previous dealings with the ATO);
- the length of time needed to lodge the document (a deferral will usually be granted if your business has a good compliance history and requests a short period of additional time to lodge); and
- any other relevant information that includes the individual circumstances.

Exceptional or unforeseen circumstances

The ATO generally considers it fair and reasonable to grant a deferral where the inability to lodge by the due date is reasonably attributed to exceptional or unforeseen circumstances.

- Exceptional or unforeseen circumstances may include:
- natural disasters or other disasters or events that may have, or have had, a significant impact on individuals, regions or particular industries;
- impeded access to records (for example, records seized during a police search or retained as evidence in a court matter);
- the serious illness or death of a family member, tax professional or critical staff member;
- considerable lack of knowledge and understanding of taxation obligations; and
- system issues, either with ATO online services or the entity's business system.

PAYG instalments for business and investment income

Pay as you go (**PAYG**) instalments are regular prepayments of tax on your business and investment income. By paying regular instalments throughout the year, you should not have a large tax bill when you lodge your tax return.

PAYG instalments are reassessed after you lodge your tax return. If you have higher or lower business and investment income in your latest tax return, your instalment amount or rate may change.

If you think you will earn business and investment income over the threshold, it is a good idea to voluntarily choose to pay PAYG instalments.

If you pay PAYG instalments using the amount method, your instalments have increased by the gross domestic product (**GDP**) adjustment factor. For the 2024–25 income year, the GDP adjustment factor is 6%.

The ATO encourages you to review your tax position regularly and vary your PAYG instalments if needed, to reflect your expected tax for the year and to avoid penalties.

Don't get caught out by GST

GST registration and payment is an ongoing area of concern for the ATO. The ATO estimates that the community is missing out on almost \$8 billion in GST each year that has not been collected due to non-compliance. Small businesses failing to comply with GST obligations contribute significantly to this gap.

Not every small business needs to be registered for GST, but when their GST turnover is \$75,000 or more, or they provide taxi, limousine or ride-sourcing services, they must register and collect GST and then pay this to the ATO.

Small businesses who do not understand their GST obligations can often be caught out when it comes time to pay.

Tip!

Do not be tempted to dip into amounts set aside to pay GST, PAYG withholding or SG for your employees to manage your cash flow.

Small business focus areas

Most small businesses try to do the right thing. But the ATO will take firmer action on those who knowingly do the wrong thing, to prevent them from gaining an unfair advantage over others.

The risks the ATO is currently focused on are:

- Business income is not personal income — where business owners use business money and assets for personal benefit;
- Deductions and concessions — non-commercial business losses, small business CGT concessions and small business boost measures;
- Operating outside of the system — GST registration and income of taxi, limousine and ride-sourcing services and contractors omitting income;
- Building good habits — entities moving from quarterly to monthly GST reporting and getting ready for business.

Changes to car thresholds from 1 July

Income tax

The car limit for 2025–26 is \$69,674 (the same as for 2024–25).

This is the highest value you can use to calculate depreciation on a car, where you:

- use the car for business purposes; and
- first use or lease the car in the 2025–26 income year.

As a business owner, you can claim a tax deduction on expenses for motor vehicles you use for business purposes.

If you are using a motor vehicle for both business and private purposes, you can claim a deduction only for the business part. You must be able to show the percentage you claim as business use and have records to support your claim.

Goods and services tax

If you are buying a car and the price is more than the car limit, the most GST credit you can claim (except in certain circumstances) is one-eleventh of the car limit. For 2025–26, the most GST credit you can claim is therefore \$6,334 (that is, $1/11 \times \$69,674$).

You need to claim GST credits within the 4-year time limit.

You cannot claim a credit for luxury car tax (**LCT**) when you buy a luxury car. This is even if you use it for business purposes.

Luxury car tax

The LCT threshold for 2025–26 is:

- \$91,387 for fuel-efficient vehicles; and
- \$80,567 for all other luxury vehicles.

From 1 July 2025, the definition of a fuel-efficient vehicle is changing. The change reduces the maximum fuel consumption for a car to be considered fuel-efficient from 7 litres per 100 kilometres to 3.5 litres per 100 kilometres. The indexation rates applying to the thresholds for fuel-efficient vehicles and other vehicles will be aligned.

If you are a dealer buying luxury cars under quote, you need to properly quote to meet your obligations.

Key tax dates

Date	Obligation
23 June 2025*	May monthly BAS due
30 June 2025	SG contributions must be paid by this date to qualify for a tax deduction in 2024–25 (this means the fund must receive the contribution by this date)
15 July 2025	Issue PAYG payment summaries if not reporting through STP
21 July 2025	June monthly BAS due
28 July 2025	Lodge and pay June quarterly BAS Pay June quarterly PAYG instalment Employee SG contributions for the June 2025 quarter due
31 July 2025	Finalisation declaration due if reporting through STP
1 Aug 2025	Fuel tax credit rates change
14 Aug 2025	PAYG withholding annual report due if not reporting through STP
21 Aug 2025	July monthly BAS due
28 Aug 2025	SG statement due if there is a shortfall for the June 2025 quarter Taxable payments annual report due
22 Sep 2025*	August monthly BAS due
1 Oct 2025	Lodge annual TFN withholding report (trustee of a closely held trust)

*This is the next business day as the due date falls on a Saturday or Sunday.

DISCLAIMER

TaxWise® News is distributed by professional tax practitioners to provide information of general interest to their clients. The content of this newsletter does not constitute specific advice. Readers are encouraged to consult their tax adviser for advice on specific matters.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation