Double tax hit for near retirees

EXCLUSIVE

SIXT BENSON
NATIONAL AFFAIRS EDITOR

More than half a million Australians approaching retirement could suffer a double tax hit to their savings plans under Labor’s policy to axe franking credit refunds and curb negative gearing, new tax data analysis says.

More than 40 per cent of the 1.3 million people who already claim tax deductions on their rental properties are between 45 and 59, Australian Taxation Office figures show.

With an average rental loss of $9,500, this group would also stand to lose the most from the scrapping of the scheme.

The government will claim that those already in the planning stage of their retirement would have two major retirement investment options taken off the table with the scrapping also of franking credit refunds, which are relied on by 900,000 Australians and mainly those in retirement.

Josh Frydenberg plans to revive the government’s campaign against Labor’s tax plans with a property industry roundtable this morning in Canberra hosted by the Property Council of Australia.

The council has warned against any changes to negative gearing or capital gains tax, claiming the risk was too great, considering the current cycle in the housing market.

The Treasurer will use the roundtable to muster support among industry groups, which include the Master Builders Association and the Real Estate Institute of Australia.

The ongoing analysis of the 2015-16 ATO tax data being conducted by Mr Frydenberg’s office has revealed that Labor’s twin tax policies were heavily weighted against middle-aged Australians approaching retirement and those who had already finished their working lives.

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MP’s over Adani

EXCLUSIVE

JARED OWENS

The CFMEU will demand Bill Shorten’s candidates across Queensland pledge support for the coal mining industry — including Adani’s controversial Carmichael mine — or face the wrath of union campaigners in their seats at the federal election.

Amid warnings that five other coal projects totalling $30 billion of investment would be threatened if activists succeeded in thwarting Adani’s project, the mining union has revealed it will endorse individual candidates in the battleground state rather than give blanket support to Labor.

The move comes after Queensland’s Labor government staled the proposed mine by outsourcing an 11-hour review of the company’s plan to protect an endangered finch to a Melbourne academic attacked by the union as biased against coal.

The CFMEU’s initiative puts the left-wing union on a collision course with the faction’s leader in the Queensland parliament, Deputy Premier Jackie Trad, whose inner-city seat is targeted by the Greens.

CFMEU Mining and Energy Queensland president Steve Smyth warned that allowing activists to stop Adani would encourage the same tactics against other mines.

“We will request a pledge from them... If you want support for us, you pledge your support for the coal industry,” Mr Smyth told The Australian.

“If we have to, we will campaign against those MPs no matter which party they’re in. Even if they’re perched up in the little cosy suburbs somewhere in the southeast drinking their lattes.”

Mr Smyth said the coal pledge would leave no “grey area” for MPs to support the Palaszczuk government’s approach to Adani.

“If this (mine) doesn’t get the tick of approval, it demonstrates to opponents of coal that if you keep aggravating — even around some things that are purely nonsensical — you’ll get an outcome,” he said.

“We have no doubt this is a stalking horse to stop all mining in the Bowen Basin.”

Mr Smyth savaged the Palaszczuk government’s decision to obtain an external review of Adani’s black-throated finch management plan from Melbourne University’s Brendan Wintle, who tweeted a photograph last November of two children holding a placard that
Labor tax hikes to bite workers

Policy by policy, Josh Frydenberg is slowly but surely enlightening voters about how much the opposition’s tax changes would cost them. From retirees’ loss of franking credits and a higher marginal tax rate to super changes and a crackdown on capital gains and negative gearing, hundreds of thousands of Australians are realising they stand to be disadvantaged by thousands of dollars or more a year.

Given current property price trends, especially in Sydney and Melbourne, real estate investors do not need further dampeners. At the very least, Bill Shorten and Chris Bowen owe it to the public to reveal when their planned hike in capital gains tax and negative gearing restrictions would take effect. They should also state if they would factor in the state of the property market before proceeding with their property tax grab, or even delay it until conditions improve.

As reported today, the Treasury has crunched the numbers, finding more than half a million taxpayers aged from 45 to 59, with an average rental loss of $5500, would be hardest hit by Labor’s housing tax.

The Treasurer is correct when he says workers approaching retirement face a double whammy under the opposition. Those who own homes or who have invested in rental property would find their assets worth less. Those renting would pay more. And those who have invested in shares would earn less through the loss of franking credits.

Aside from creating widespread personal hardship, such policies would discourage workers from being thrifty to ensure they are self-supporting in retirement, rather than relying on taxpayer-funded pensions.

The divisions between the major parties on tax and encouraging workers to keep more of their hard-earned money for retirement are stark. The question for voters is how widely they are prepared to open their wallets to fund Labor’s profligate social programs.

Trump delivering on a promise

Democrats will pay a price for thwarting the will of voters

Given the legal challenges it will face from Donald Trump’s opponents, there is no certainty the President’s declaration of a national emergency will get him the funding he wants for a wall along the Mexican border. But after Democrats took control of the House of Representatives and slashed his budgetary request from $US5.7 billion to $US3.6 billion, he is entitled to use whatever tactic is available to him to fulfil a key promise that was central to his electoral victory over Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Democrats and their supporting media can rail about what they claim is a “constitutional crisis” arising from Mr Trump’s “misuse” of national emergency rules to achieve political ends. But in doing so he has acted no differently to his predecessors in the White House, with records showing that since Jimmy Carter, each president has declared national emergencies about six times to circumvent congress.

In most instances these were to enforce executive authority over sanctions, terrorism and transnational crime. Mr Trump’s argues the US faces a national emergency over an “invasion” along its southern border. His argument is straightforward. An estimated 10.7 million illegal immigrants are living in the US and 396,579 were apprehended trying to cross the border in 2018. Officials believe the total numbers are far higher.

Mr Trump won the White House largely off the back of his pledge to secure US borders, with a wall the key to doing so. Democrats have ill-served their own and the US national interest by seeking to thwart him fulfilling his electoral mandate.

Australian Border Force will say that any boats are turned back, majority of us are more concerned with health, education, job opportunities, house prices, the impact of the tax and franking credit on and climate change.

Paul Mulroney, Victor Harbor, SA

Your editorial and political journal are in accord ("Border protection regime, executive power in...2/2). Our border security is threatened by the intransigent Labor, Greens and idependents who appear oblivious to the diff

Rewriting the official temperature data confuses and infuriates

How coincidental that these inevitable temperature adjustments—creating modern and red historical temperatures to increase the slope to warming—are occurring simultaneously around the world ("Heat on BoM for records ren 16/12/2).

At this rate it won’t be long before these continually "adjusted" temperatures fall into line with the conventional models, that have bee an embarrassment for years. Kevin Begaud, Dee Why, NSW

Most media outlets are abuzz with human-induced catastrophic change bandwagon. As inoff consumers we are, of course, make judgements about the output from various tel radio, press and social media sources. But it is irritating that what a be simple and fact-based solution dealing with weather f

Peter Dutton

And as Labor eyes whitebait shoots it doesn’t leave, the PM focused on other beans

7 News Melbourne Twitter on Friday:
While the government has stopped the boats, 7 News tonight reveal that more than 100,000 asylum-seekers have arrived on the continent by plane in just the years.

ABC Insiders host Barrie commentiing on the 7 News if anything demonstrates the hubbub of the asylum debate it is this.

Peter Dutton replying on T