

Media release

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REIA welcomes Treasury comments on stamp duties

The Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) has welcomed the comments made by the Secretary of the Treasury, Dr Martin Parkinson, that there needs to be a move to abolish state-based real estate stamp duties.

Mr Parkinson identified stamp duties as the biggest drag on productivity and a tax which inhibits economic adjustment.

“The REIA has long advocated reform of state property taxes,” said REIA Acting President, Ms Pamela Bennett.

“State based stamp duties are inequitable, inefficient and an unstable source of revenue for state governments,” Ms Bennett said.

Stamp duties represent additional costs to property transactions, discouraging turnover of housing and distorting choices between renting and buying and between moving house and renovating,” she continued.

Abolition of stamp duties would not only improve mobility but also improve social and economic development.

Ms Bennett went on to say, “The abolition of all state stamp duties and replacement with more efficient taxes will improve household consumption, a measure of economic wellbeing, by around 2 per cent.”

“The REIA will be taking this position to the tax forum in October and will be seeking a commitment from governments to take an agreed and coordinated approach to an agenda for reform,” conclude Ms Bennett.

The Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) is the national professional association for real estate agents in Australia. For further information or interview opportunities, please contact:

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