



Media Release

Friday 4 March 2011

UNTAXED SUPER SCHEMES NOT AFFECTED BY CONCESSIONAL CAPS

Federal Treasury this week released a paper on options for the permanent extension of a superannuation contribution cap that is due to expire in July 2012.

Michele Dolin, Chief Executive Officer at GESB, welcomes the proposal to increase the cap on concessional contributions permanently and said, "Members of untaxed schemes, such as GESB's West State Super scheme, are not affected by this extension.

"There is no cap on concessional contributions to untaxed schemes. However, this is offset by a ceiling on how much of the retirement benefit is concessionally taxed. Currently, untaxed retirement benefits can be as high as \$1.155m before the top marginal tax rate is applied."

Ms Dolin said that the industry is supportive of the move to extend the concessional contributions cap but expected there to be further discussion before the detail is finalised.

"Superannuation is the most tax effective way to save for later life. A permanent extension of the concessional contribution cap for taxed funds means that more people will be able to increase their retirement savings. This is particularly important for those with lower super account balances as a result of time spent out of the workforce," said Ms Dolin.

Ends

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1. About GESB

GESB is the largest WA-based super provider with more than 320,000 members, representing nearly one quarter of the WA workforce, and around \$11.5 billion funds under management.

With more than 70-years of superannuation experience, GESB is ideally situated to provide members with a choice of superannuation and retirement products, access to financial planning and insurance coverage through super, combined with competitive fees and a wide range of member education, information and resources.

For further information visit gesb.com.au .

2. Industry ratings and awards

GESB is ranked in the top ten superannuation and retirement funds in Australia, according to SuperRatings: SuperRatings Super Of the Year Finalist 2011; SuperRatings Pension Of the Year Finalist 2011.

Chant West has ranked GESB as a Top 10 superannuation fund in Australia in 2011. Chant West's rating of GESB is based on consideration of both GESB Super and West State Super.

GESB has joined an elite group of 15 Australian super funds ranked in the top 300 global funds, according to Towers Watson, P&I/TW300 analysis, 2010.

SuperRatings awarded GESB Super and Retirement Income Allocated Pension its highest Platinum rating for 2011. This is granted to only the top 15% of the best 'value for money' funds, based on an assessment of investment returns, investment methodology, fees, administration and advisory services, as well as a robust, secure and proven governance framework.

Chant West awarded GESB Super, West State Super and Retirement Income Allocated Pension its highest rating in 2010, Five Apples, following an assessment of organisational strengths, investments, fees, insurance, administration, member services and employer services.

The Heron Partnership has also awarded GESB Super its highest rating in 2011, 5 Quality Stars, granted to only the top 25% of super products, based on an assessment of investment arrangements, insurance, ancillary benefits, communications and contributions.

GESB member education seminars received the highest member rating in the 2009 Investor/Member Sentiment and Communications Report by Investment Trends.