

ATO Scam – ATO Audit Division

There is a new telephone scam doing the rounds advising that you are being audited.

The aim of the scam is to get your credit card number or bank account details.

When answering the telephone, a recorded message will be played:

“This message is intended for the recipient,”

“This is Paul Mason calling from the audit division of the Australian Taxation Office and this call is in regards to your tax audit.”

(Alternatively the name used may be John)

“You should call xx xxxx xxxx immediately to discuss your audit.”

“Do not attempt to disregard this message, you have already ignored my last calls so please phone immediately”

The message may also indicate that there could be a court order/summons issued if you ignore the call.

PLEASE IGNORE THIS MESSAGE, IT IS A SCAM –

The ATO will never phone you to discuss your affairs. They will either contact us as your tax agent or send you an official letter via post.

The ATO may call you regarding outstanding debts owed to them and to make payment arrangements with them – BUT – payments will always be made via official ATO stationery or by via BPAY.

Fuel Tax Credit rate increase from 1 August 2015

The ATO have announced an increase to the Fuel Tax Credit (FTC) rates from 1 August 2015.

Type of fuel	Rate for fuel acquired from 1 Aug – cents
Fuel used on the road (in heavy vehicle greater than 4.5 tonnes)	13.06
Fuel used for all other activities	39.2

Have you reviewed your will lately?

With the new financial year upon us, we ask the question “have you looked at your will lately?”

It takes a long time and a lot of effort to build up assets over a lifetime.

Whilst most of us have very firm ideas about what we want to happen to those assets after we die, it is essential to ensure that all your assets, not just most, are passed on according to your intentions.

The majority of your assets are covered by your will including possessions, property, money in bank accounts, shares and managed funds solely held in your name.

However, there are some assets that are not automatically looked after by your will (e.g. superannuation).

If you die without a will or not specifically nominated them, these assets will be distributed according to the laws of the state or territory in which you lived at the time of your death. Some of these may be substantial.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2** Pay your employee superannuation on time
- 3** Accelerated depreciation for Primary Producers
 - Motor vehicle cost limit for 2015-16

Pay your employees superannuation on time or you lose the tax deduction

Did you know?

As a business, if you do not pay your employee superannuation guarantee contributions by the quarterly cut-off date, you are not able to claim a tax deduction for the superannuation amount!

Even just one day late means you are unable to claim a tax deduction!

Late payments also attract penalties and interest!

To avoid this, and in order to claim a full tax deduction for the payments, they must be paid and received by the superannuation fund by the quarterly cut-off dates below:

Quarter Period	Payment cut-off date
1 1 July – 30 September	28 October
2 1 October – 31 December	28 January
3 1 January – 31 March	28 April
4 1 April – 30 June	28 July



Zone Tax Offset for FIFO workers

In the 2015–16 Federal Budget, the government announced that it will exclude 'fly-in fly-out' and 'drive-in drive-out' (FIFO) workers from the Zone Tax Offset where their normal residence is not within a 'zone'.

It will take effect from 1 July 2015.

Currently, to be eligible for the Zone Tax Offset, a taxpayer must reside or work in a specified remote area for more than 183 days in an income year. The offset recognises the isolation, uncongenial climate and high cost of living associated with living in

Do you use PC Cashflow?

Cashflow Manager have recently warned us that all versions of PC Cashflow prior to version 7 (2007 release) are no longer supported by them.

So what does this mean for you?

If you are using a version prior to version 7 and you experience issues, Cashflow Manager are unable to help you!

Cashflow Manager have also told us that other clients using the older versions of PC Cashflow have experienced the following issue:

Version 3 or 2004 just “stops working” and you are unable open your data file to salvage any information.

This means that if you are not taking regular backups of your data file, you have lost your information for good.

The good news?

If you have been taking regular backups of your file, Cashflow Manager are able to upgrade your backup file to a current version of PC Cashflow for a small fee.

If you are still using an older version, consider upgrading today!

For more information contact our office and ask for Brooke.

Have you got Safe Tax cover for 2015/16?

The ATO gather details of millions of transactions per year (600 million last year) from third parties and match these to what has been reported in your Income Tax Return and BAS statements.

If they find a mismatch, no matter the size, they will contact you for an explanation.

If the ATO are not satisfied with your response, an audit can arise.

It's not too late to take out Safe Tax cover for the 2015/16 financial year.

Phone our office today to find out more.

Motor vehicle cost limit for 2015-16

Remember when preparing your BAS that you can only claim GST on a new motor vehicle up to the motor vehicle cost limit of \$57,466.

This means that if the car cost \$75,000 including GST, the maximum amount of GST you can claim is one-eleventh of the car limit of \$57,466.

For 2015-16, the maximum GST credit you can claim is \$5,224 (that is, $1/11 \times \$57,466$). This limit also applies to cars which are fuel efficient.

If you purchase a car with a price that is more than the car limit, you include only the amount of the car limit (\$57,466) at label G10.

Do you have a MyGov account?

If you have a myGov account, most of your ATO mail will now come directly to your myGov Inbox, rather than through the post.

The types of ATO mail you may receive in your myGov Inbox include:

- Notice of Assessment for Income Tax Returns
- Statements of account for outstanding debt
- PAYG Instalment notices or Business Activity Statements

ATO digital communications containing personal information, such as a tax file number, will be sent to your myGov Inbox, rather than your email account, due to legal and privacy requirements.

We as your tax agent are still able to access your Notice of Assessment, PAYG Instalment notices or Business Activity Statements via the ATO system.

If you would like a printed copy of any of the above, please contact our office.



Australian Government



Accelerated depreciation for farmers

In May 2015, the federal budget announced that from 13 May 2015, Australian farmers would be able to claim a tax deduction on capital expenditure incurred on:

- Water facilities
- Fodder storage assets; and
- Fencing

Farmers are able to fully deduct the cost of water facilities and fencing in the year they were purchased, and deduct the cost of fodder storage assets over 3 years.

What is a fodder storage asset?

A fodder storage asset must be constructed for the sole purpose of storing fodder.

Examples include:

- Silos;
- Liquid feed supplement storage tanks;
- Bins for storing dried grain;
- Hay sheds
- Grain storage sheds; and
- Above-ground bunkers

If, however, a farmer purchases a silo which is used to store seed not intended for animal consumption, the silo would not be classed as a fodder storage asset, and will be depreciated over a number of years.

More detailed information is available at:

<https://www.ato.gov.au/General/New-legislation/In-detail/Direct-taxes/Income-tax-for-businesses/Accelerated-depreciation-for-primary-producers/>



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