



30 October 2019

The Finance and Expenditure Committee
Committee Secretariat
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Via [Parliament website](#)

Dear Sir or Madam

Public Finance (Wellbeing) Amendment Bill

We welcome the opportunity to provide feedback to the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the *Public Finance (Wellbeing) Amendment Bill*. We support the embedding of wellbeing in the Public Finance Act 1989 (the Act). This should lead to better policy development and improved outcomes. Appendix A provides more information about Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ).

Wellbeing objectives

Section 26M Clause 6 -states that 'The budget policy statement must explain how the wellbeing objectives are intended to support long-term wellbeing in New Zealand.' We suggest that the Committee consider amending this clause to reflect that wellbeing objectives guiding the Government's Budget decisions are likely to encompass both long *and* short-term wellbeing matters.

Reporting

The Public Finance (Wellbeing) Amendment Bill is focused on part 2 of the Act, which relates to the Budget process. We consider it will also be important for wellbeing to be embedded in Parts 3 and 4 of the Act, which relate to reporting. Reporting via Parts 3 and 4 will be important in ensuring Government is accountable for delivering on the policy objectives set out in the Budget Policy Statement.

Role of Treasury

While the role of Treasury will change under the new approach, it is critical that Treasury remains a strong and independent source of expertise on financial and economic matters.

Assurance and verification

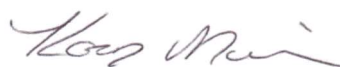
We encourage the committee to consider the important role that assurance and verification will play in building the public's trust in the role of Government and the new measures. The wellbeing measures will have the same degree of scrutiny applied as the economic and fiscal data and assurance can increase confidence in the new measures. For example, by addressing matters such as whether the measures are the right ones for the policy objectives and are they measured consistently.

Should you have any queries concerning the matters discussed above or wish to discuss them, please Karen McWilliams via email at karen.mcwilliams@charteredaccountantsanz.com or phone (+612) 8078 5451.

Yours sincerely,



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Karen McWilliams FCA
Business Reform Leader
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Appendix A

About Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand

Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand is a professional body comprised of over 125,000 diverse, talented and financially astute members who utilise their skills every day to make a difference for businesses the world over.

Members are known for their professional integrity, principled judgment, financial discipline and a forward-looking approach to business which contributes to the prosperity of our nations.

We focus on the education and lifelong learning of our members and engage in advocacy and thought leadership in areas of public interest that impact the economy and domestic and international markets.

We are a member of the International Federation of Accountants and are connected globally through the 800,000-strong Global Accounting Alliance and Chartered Accountants Worldwide which brings together leading Institutes in Australia, England and Wales, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland and South Africa to support and promote over 320,000 Chartered Accountants in more than 180 countries.

We also have a strategic alliance with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. The alliance represents 788,000 current and next generation professional accountants across 181 countries and is one of the largest accounting alliances in the world providing the full range of accounting qualifications to students and business.