


PR 2019/1 - Income tax: taxation consequences for a Nominee Investor in the Australian Securities Property Fund

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Product Ruling

Income tax: taxation consequences for a Nominee Investor in the Australian Securities Property Fund

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ⓘ This publication provides you with the following level of protection:

This publication (excluding appendices) is a public ruling for the purposes of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953*.

A public ruling is an expression of the Commissioner's opinion about the way in which a relevant provision applies, or would apply, to entities generally or to a class of entities in relation to a particular scheme or a class of schemes.

If you rely on this ruling, the Commissioner must apply the law to you in the way set out in the ruling (unless the Commissioner is satisfied that the ruling is incorrect and disadvantages you, in which case the law may be applied to you in a way that is more favourable for you – provided the Commissioner is not prevented from doing so by a time limit imposed by the law). You will be protected from having to pay any underpaid tax, penalty or interest in respect of the matters covered by this ruling if it turns out that it does not correctly state how the relevant provision applies to you.

No guarantee of commercial success

The Commissioner **does not** sanction or guarantee this product. Further, the Commissioner gives no assurance that the product is commercially viable, that charges are reasonable, appropriate or represent industry norms, or that projected returns will be achieved or are reasonably based.

Potential participants must form their own view about the commercial and financial viability of the product. The Commissioner recommends a financial (or other) adviser be consulted for such information.

This Product Ruling provides certainty for potential participants by confirming that the tax benefits set out in the **Ruling** part of this document are available, **provided that** the scheme is carried out in accordance with the information we have been given, and have described below in the **Scheme** part of this document. If the scheme is not carried out as described, participants lose the protection of this Product Ruling.

Terms of use of this Product Ruling

This Product Ruling has been given on the basis that the entity(s) who applied for the Product Ruling, and their associates, will abide by strict terms of use. Any failure to comply with the terms of use may lead to the withdrawal of this Product Ruling.

What this Ruling is about

1. This Product Ruling sets out the Commissioner's opinion on the way in which the relevant provisions identified in the Ruling section apply to the defined class of entities who take part in the scheme to which this Ruling relates. All legislative references in this Ruling are to the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (ITAA 1997) unless otherwise indicated.
2. In this Product Ruling the scheme is an investment in the Australian Securities Property Fund (the Fund) offered by Australian Securities Limited (ASL) and issued under a Product Disclosure Statement.
3. This Product Ruling does not address:
 - the taxation consequences for an Owner other than a Nominee Investor (for example, Sole or Contributory Investors)
 - the taxation consequences for a Nominee Investor following the registration of their name by ASL on the Certificate of Title of the Sub-scheme Property
 - the taxation consequences of a joint investment in the Fund by two or more entities that constitute a partnership between themselves for income tax purposes
 - the taxation consequences of any financial accommodation an Owner obtains to fund the acquisition of a Membership Interest in a Sub-scheme and/or any repairs, renovations and/or maintenance of a Sub-scheme Property
 - the taxation consequences in respect of a Sub-scheme that acquires vacant land or any other type of Sub-scheme Property for the purposes of property development, and
 - whether this scheme constitutes a financial arrangement for the purposes of Division 230 (Taxation of financial arrangements).

Class of entities

4. This part of the Product Ruling specifies which entities can rely on the Ruling section of this Product Ruling and which entities cannot rely on the Ruling section. In this Product Ruling, those entities that can rely on the Ruling section are Members and Owners specifically participating and referred to as Nominee Investors.

5. The class of entities that can rely on this Product Ruling consists of those Nominee Investors:

- that are accepted to participate in the scheme described in paragraphs 16 to 44 of this Product Ruling and execute the relevant agreements mentioned in paragraph 16 of this Product Ruling on or after 1 July 2018 and on or before 30 June 2021, and

at the time of entering into the scheme:

- have a purpose of staying in a Sub-scheme until it is completed, and
- have a realistic expectation of deriving assessable income from the investment that exceeds the deductible expenditure incurred in connection with the investment.

6. The class of entities that can rely on the Ruling section of this Product Ruling does **not** include entities that:

- intend to terminate their involvement in a Sub-scheme prior to its completion, or that do not intend to derive assessable income from it in excess of their deductible expenditure
- are accepted to participate in the scheme described in paragraphs 16 to 44 of this Product Ruling and execute the relevant agreements mentioned in paragraph 16 of this Product Ruling before 1 July 2018 or after 30 June 2021
- are Sole or Contributory Investors
- participate in the scheme through offers made other than through the Product Disclosure Statement, or who enter into an undisclosed arrangement with the promoter or a promoter associate, or an independent adviser that is interdependent with scheme obligations and/or scheme benefits (which may include tax benefits) in any way
- acquire a Membership Interest in a Sub-scheme that acquires vacant land or any other type of Sub-scheme Property for the purposes of property development, or
- are subject to Division 230 in respect of this scheme. Division 230 will generally not apply to individuals,

unless they have made an election for it to apply to them.

Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993

7. This Product Ruling does not address the provisions of the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993* (SISA). The Commissioner gives no assurance that the scheme is an appropriate investment for a superannuation fund. The trustees of superannuation funds are advised that no consideration has been given in this Product Ruling as to whether investment in this scheme may contravene the provisions of SISA.

Qualifications

8. The class of entities defined in this Product Ruling may rely on its contents provided the scheme actually carried out is carried out in accordance with the scheme described in paragraphs 16 to 44.

9. If the scheme actually carried out is materially different from the scheme that is described in this Product Ruling, then:

- this Product Ruling has no binding effect on the Commissioner because the scheme entered into is not the scheme on which the Commissioner has ruled, and
- this Product Ruling may be withdrawn or modified.

Date of effect

10. This Product Ruling applies prospectively from 1 July 2018. It therefore applies only to the specified class of entities that enter into the scheme between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2021 inclusive, being its period of application. This Product Ruling will continue to apply to those entities even after its period of application has ended for the scheme entered into during the period of application.

11. However the Product Ruling only applies to the extent that there is no change in the scheme or in the entity's involvement in the scheme.

Changes in the law

12. Although this Product Ruling deals with the income tax laws enacted at the time it was issued, later amendments may impact on this Product Ruling. Any such changes will take precedence over the application of this Product Ruling and, to that extent, this Product Ruling will have no effect.

13. Entities who are considering participating in the scheme are advised to confirm with their taxation adviser that changes in the law have not affected this Product Ruling since it was issued.

Note to promoters and advisers

14. Product Rulings were introduced for the purpose of providing certainty about tax consequences for entities in schemes such as this. In keeping with that intention the Commissioner suggests that promoters and advisers ensure that participants are fully informed of any legislative changes after the Product Ruling has issued.

Ruling

15. Subject to paragraph 3 of this Product Ruling and the assumptions in paragraph 44 of this Ruling:

- (a) Interest paid by ASL to the Member Account of a Nominee Investor in respect of Application Money that has not yet been allocated to a Sub-scheme will be assessable income of the Nominee Investor under section 6-5.
- (b) The Nominee Investor is assessable under section 97 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* (ITAA 1936) on so much of that share of the net income of the trust estate (as adjusted by Division 6E of the ITAA 1936) to which the Nominee Investor is presently entitled. The present entitlement of the Nominee Investor will reflect the Nominee Investor's fixed rights to income and capital gains derived from the Sub-scheme in which the Nominee Investor has a Membership Interest, commensurate to the proportion of the Sub-scheme Property funded by the Nominee Investor.
- (c) The Nominee Investor is assessable under Division 102 on so much of the share of the net capital gain of the trust estate as determined by Subdivision 115-C. The Nominee Investor's share of the net capital gain of the trust estate will include fixed rights to capital gains derived from the sale of the Sub-scheme Property in which the Nominee Investor has an interest and in proportion to that interest held.
- (d) CGT event E4 under section 104-70 happens if and when the Nominee Investor receives a payment from ASL as Trustee of the Sub-scheme, some or all of which ('the non-assessable part') is not included in the assessable income of the Nominee Investor as per paragraphs 15(b) and (c) of this Product Ruling.

- (e) Any Management Fees, Managing Agent's Fees, Project Management Fees, Performance Fee and Debt Arranging Fees incurred by a Nominee Investor will be deductible to the Nominee Investor under section 8-1 in the income year incurred.
- (f) Section 51AAA of the ITAA 1936 will not apply to deny the Nominee Investor a deduction for fees and expenses allowable under section 8-1 of the ITAA 1997.
- (g) The Membership Interest of the Nominee Investor in a Sub-scheme is a CGT asset under subsection 108-5(1).
- (h) CGT event A1 under section 104-10 happens if and when the Nominee Investor disposes of their Membership Interest in a Sub-scheme. That is, this event occurs when the Nominee Investor assigns their Membership Interest in a Sub-scheme to another Member or Members either upon roll over of the Sub-scheme for an additional term, or during the term of the Sub-scheme in the limited circumstances set out in paragraph 38 of this Product Ruling.
- (i) A capital gain will arise under section 104-10 to the Nominee Investor if the capital proceeds from the disposal of their Membership Interest in a Sub-scheme are greater than the cost base of that Membership Interest. A capital loss will arise under section 104-10 to the Nominee Investor if the capital proceeds from the disposal of their Membership Interest in a Sub-scheme are less than the reduced cost base of that Membership Interest.
- (j) The capital proceeds for the purpose of section 116-20 from this CGT event A1 will be the amount of proceeds the Nominee Investor receives or is entitled to receive for the disposal of their Membership Interest.
- (k) The cost base or reduced cost base of the Nominee Investor's Membership Interest includes their Membership Contribution, the Contribution Fee and the Acquisition and Due Diligence Fees paid by the Nominee Investor (subsections 110-25(2), 110-25(3) and 110-55(2)).
- (l) Any capital gain realised by a Nominee Investor from the disposal of a Membership Interest acquired in a Sub-scheme will be treated as a discount capital gain pursuant to section 115-5 where the Nominee Investor is an individual, a complying superannuation entity, or a trust and has held the Membership Interest for at least 12 months.

- (m) The anti-avoidance provisions in Part IVA of the ITAA 1936 will not be applied to deny the deductibility of the fees incurred by the Nominee Investor, as per paragraph 15(e) of this Product Ruling, in respect of their participation in the scheme described in paragraphs 16 to 44 of this Product Ruling.

Scheme

16. The scheme that is the subject of this Product Ruling is identified and described in the following documents:

- application for a Product Ruling as constituted by documents and information received on 10 December 2018, 29 January 2019 and 6 March 2019
- Australian Securities Property Fund Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) dated 2 November 2011
- draft Property Description Certificate (Supplementary Product Disclosure Statement), received on 10 December 2018
- draft Property Trust Declaration, received on 10 December 2018
- Constitution for the Australian Securities Property Fund, dated 8 September 2011
- Compliance Plan for the Australian Securities Property Fund, dated 2 September 2011, and
- draft Finance Facility Agreement, received on 29 January 2019.

Note: Certain information has been provided on a commercial-in-confidence basis and will not be disclosed or released under Freedom of Information legislation.

17. For the purposes of describing the scheme to which this Product Ruling applies, there are no other agreements, whether formal or informal, and whether or not legally enforceable, which a Nominee Investor or any associate of a Nominee Investor, will be a party to, which are a part of the scheme. Unless otherwise defined, capitalised terms in this Product Ruling take their meaning as provided in the PDS, Constitution and/or Compliance Plan referred to in paragraph 16 of this Ruling.

18. All Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) requirements are, or will be, complied with for the term of the agreements.

Overview

19. The Fund is an unlisted property fund comprising of multiple individual Sub-schemes, registered as a managed investment scheme under the *Corporations Act 2001* with Australian Registered Scheme Number 153 029 264 and managed by ASL as the Responsible Entity.

20. An offer to participate in the Fund is made through the PDS issued by ASL. To participate in the Fund, Applicants execute the Application Form contained in the PDS and lodge the executed form together with their Application Money.

21. Subject to ASL's right to establish a higher minimum investment amount for some or all Sub-schemes, the minimum initial investment in the Fund per Applicant is \$50,000 for those who invest directly and \$35,000 for those who invest via a financial adviser.

22. Upon ASL's acceptance of an Application, the Applicant becomes a Member of the Fund bound by the Constitution, and appoints ASL under an irrevocable Power of Attorney to, among other things, execute contracts of sale and lease agreements on the Member's behalf.

23. The Member's Application Money will be deposited by ASL into an ASL Trust Account and may earn interest at rates set by ASL pending its allocation to a particular Sub-scheme.

24. ASL will allocate a property to, and prepare a Property Description Certificate (PDC) for, each Sub-scheme. The PDC outlines details in relation to the specific property of a Sub-scheme (the Sub-scheme Property) in which the Members will be offered entry into upon receipt by ASL of completed Applications and in accordance with the preferences of Members outlined in their respective Application.

25. ASL sets a minimum subscription amount for each Sub-scheme which will equate to the purchase price of the Sub-scheme Property (less any portion that ASL will fund using debt) plus upfront fees and expenses. When ASL receives the minimum subscription amount from contributing Members, subscriptions for the Sub-scheme are closed.

26. When the minimum subscription for the relevant Sub-scheme has been reached, the Member's Application Money will be redeemed from the ASL Trust Account and contributed into the relevant Sub-scheme in the following circumstances:

- upon receipt of the Member's written approval to enter into a particular Sub-scheme, or
- in the event that the Member does not lodge a written objection to their entry into or acceptance of a particular Sub-scheme within 14 days of ASL sending the PDC to the Member.

27. The Member becomes an Owner at the time their Membership Contribution is allocated to a Sub-scheme. Every \$1 of that Membership Contribution allocated to a Sub-scheme is equal to a Membership Interest in that Sub-scheme.

28. The Assets of a Sub-scheme are not pooled with those of other Sub-schemes. Sub-scheme Properties operate independently and separately from all other Sub-scheme Properties.

29. All Sub-scheme Properties are sourced by ASL in accordance with its property investment criteria on an ongoing basis within the following property categories:

- commercial office buildings
- retail properties comprising of retail premises or small shopping centres
- industrial properties comprising factories and warehouses, and
- residential properties comprising properties used for domestic purposes.

These properties will predominantly be located within a 100 kilometre radius of the Melbourne CBD, but may be located in other parts of Australia if appropriate and where there are Members willing to invest in those areas.

Investment options

30. A Sub-scheme Property may be registered in one of the following ways:

- as a Direct Property Investment under which a single Owner, referred to in the PDS as a Sole Investor, is the sole participant in a Sub-scheme and has their name registered on the Certificate of Title of the Sub-scheme Property
- as a Contributory Property Investment under which two or more Owners, referred to in the PDS as Contributory Investors, invest in a particular Sub-scheme and each have their names registered on the Certificate of Title of the Sub-scheme Property, or
- as a Nominee Property Investment under which ASL is registered on the Certificate of Title of the Sub-scheme Property in the capacity as bare Trustee for one or more Owners, referred to in the PDS as Nominee Investors, that can call on ASL to transfer the legal interest in the Sub-scheme Property to them by registering their name on the Certificate of Title of the Sub-scheme Property at any time.

31. Each Nominee Property Investment under the Fund will be a separate trust, the beneficiaries of which will be the Owner(s) that contributed their Membership Contribution into the relevant Sub-scheme.

32. Two or more Owners participating in a Sub-scheme as Contributory or Nominee Investors by separate Membership Contributions shall have distinct interests as tenants in common, such interest being in proportion to the Membership Contributions the respective Owner bears to the total of the funds invested in the Sub-scheme.

33. This Product Ruling only applies to Nominee Investors participating in a Nominee Property Investment. Any Sole or Contributory Investors are not covered by this Ruling and may apply for a private ruling regarding their participation in a Direct Property Investment and Contributory Property Investment respectively.

Distributable amounts

34. ASL will collect rental income from the Sub-scheme Properties on a monthly basis on behalf of the Owners and distribute that rental income, less any fees and expenses, to the Owners no later than the last day of the month following a Distribution Period. ASL will also collect the proceeds from the sale of a Sub-scheme Property on behalf of the Owners and, unless the Owners request that those capital proceeds be invested in another Sub-scheme, distribute them, less any fees and expenses, to the Owners within 60 days of the settlement of the sale. All distributions to Owners will be in proportion to their respective Membership Contributions.

Maturity of and/or withdrawal from a Sub-scheme

35. The Fund is established for a term of 80 years and each Sub-scheme under the Fund will typically have a term of 5 to 7 years, maturing when the Sub-scheme Property is due to be sold under the terms of its PDC. At that time each Owner in the Sub-scheme may elect to:

- reinvest part or all of the amounts representing their Membership Interest in the Sub-scheme on further terms and conditions contained in a Rollover Notice if the Member wishes to continue to hold the Sub-scheme Property and, if required, other Owners are willing to invest in the Sub-scheme Property
- invest in another Sub-scheme on the terms and conditions applying to that Sub-scheme set out in its PDC, or
- withdraw their funds from the Fund.

36. ASL individually approves Sub-schemes for settlement or rollover for an extended holding period and sets the terms and

conditions for any extension of a maturing Sub-scheme. Those terms and conditions are submitted to the Owners of that Sub-scheme to approve in a Rollover Notice or, where required due to the withdrawal of an existing Owner of that Sub-scheme, submitted to new Members in a PDC.

37. Withdrawals from the Fund may be made in any of the following circumstances:

- on the maturity of a Sub-scheme and the sale of the Sub-scheme Property
- upon the provision of written notice by the Owner to ASL before the Sub-scheme is rolled over to withdraw the investment at the end of the first (or any subsequent) term of the Sub-scheme, and the acquisition of the withdrawing Owner's interest in the Sub-scheme by a Member or Members, or
- upon approval by ASL of a withdrawal request prior to the end of the first (or any subsequent) term of the Sub-scheme.

38. ASL is under no obligation to, and will not, process a withdrawal and release an Owner from a Sub-scheme during its term unless:

- the request is made as a consequence of unforeseen and exceptional circumstances or hardship being experienced by the withdrawing Owner
- another Member is willing to take an assignment of the withdrawing Owner's Membership Interest, and
- the withdrawing Owner pays the fees and expenses determined by ASL (including the Early Withdrawal Fee) to facilitate the premature redemption and substitution.

39. Where ASL accepts the request by a Member to withdraw from a particular Sub-scheme, the Owner must withdraw wholly, and not partly, from that Sub-scheme.

Fees

40. In consideration of ASL properly performing its duties, ASL is entitled to the following fees:

- a Contribution Fee of up to 2.5% of each Membership Contribution, taken from the Membership Contribution
- Acquisition and Due Diligence Fees (referred to as Acquisition Fees in the Constitution) of up to 2% of the value of the Sub-scheme Property, charged for all work undertaken upon the acquisition of a property, including identifying, negotiating, due diligence of and

attending to the acquisition of the Sub-scheme Property at the settlement of the Sub-scheme Property acquisition, taken from the Membership Contribution

- Debt Arranging Fees, if applicable, of up to 0.55% of the amount initially drawn down to fund either a portion of the acquisition price of the Sub-scheme Property or repairs and maintenance undertaken on the Sub-scheme Property, charged for the arrangement of the debt facility and payable by the Owner at the time the amount is drawn down
- Management Fees of between 0.5% and 0.95% (unless a different rate has been agreed with the Owners of a particular Sub-scheme) of the gross value of the Assets of the Sub-scheme for the management of an Owner's investment, payable by the Owner monthly in arrears over the term of the Sub-scheme from the rental income received from the Sub-scheme and then, if necessary, out of the capital proceeds received from the Sub-scheme
- any Managing Agent's Fees payable by the Owner to cover the costs incurred by ASL arising from the appointment of a managing agent to manage the Sub-scheme Property on ASL's behalf
- any Project Management Fees set out in the PDC, charged for any project works (eg. building repairs or refurbishment) that are managed by ASL, payable by the Owner when required
- a Performance Fee payable by the Owner if and when the Sub-scheme outperforms an acceptable property industry benchmark set out in the PDC
- a Disposal Fee (referred to as a Sale Fee in the Constitution) of 2% to 4% of the sale price of the Sub-scheme Property, charged to cover the usual costs incurred when selling assets, such as agents and legal fees, payable by the Owner on the settlement of the sale of the Sub-scheme Property from the proceeds of that sale, and
- an Early Withdrawal Fee of up to 3% of the amount withdrawn, charged to cover a portion of the future Management Fees that would otherwise be payable to ASL, as well as ASL's costs of processing an early withdrawal, finding an appropriate Member to invest in the Sub-scheme, obtaining a valuation report etc., payable by the Owner at the time of their early withdrawal from a Sub-scheme from the withdrawal proceeds.

Finance

Borrowing by the Fund

41. The Constitution permits the Fund to borrow to fund the acquisition of a Sub-scheme Property and to fund repairs and maintenance of a Sub-Scheme Property.

42. The Fund will borrow either from an entity associated with ASL or from an independent, third party lender. According to the PDS, any borrowing used to fund the acquisition of a Sub-scheme Property will not exceed 50% of the value of the Sub-scheme Property at the time the loan is procured. An additional 10% may be borrowed for the purpose of repairs and maintenance of the Sub-scheme Property. Where the Fund borrows from ASL's associate, the borrowing will be governed by the terms of the Finance Facility Agreement.

Borrowing by an Owner

43. An Owner may fund their Membership Interest in a Sub-scheme from their own financial resources or via a borrowing from an independent lender external to the Fund. This Product Ruling does not address the deductibility of interest and other borrowing costs incurred by an Owner to acquire their Membership Interest in a Sub-scheme.

Assumptions

44. This Ruling is made on the basis of the following necessary assumptions:

- (a) The Nominee Investor is an Australian resident for taxation purposes.
- (b) The Nominee Investor is not a trader in investments and is not treated for taxation purposes as trading in Membership Interests in a Sub-scheme, carrying on a business of investing in a Sub-scheme, or holding their Membership Interests in a Sub-scheme as trading stock or on revenue account.
- (c) The Nominee Investor is not under a legal disability for the purposes of Division 6 of Part III of the ITAA 1936.
- (d) The dominant purpose of the Nominee Investor in entering the scheme is to derive income and gains from the investment that exceeds the total expenses incurred in respect of the scheme.
- (e) The scheme will be executed in the manner described in this Product Ruling and in accordance with the scheme documentation mentioned in paragraph 16 of this Ruling.

- (f) All dealings by and between the Nominee Investor and ASL under the scheme will be at arm's length.

Commissioner of Taxation

17 April 2019

Appendix 1 – Explanation

ⓘ *This Appendix is provided as information to help you understand how the Commissioner's view has been reached. It does not form part of the binding public ruling.*

Assessability of amounts received by Nominee Investors

Interest income

45. Interest paid to the Nominee Investor on Application Money deposited into the Member Account opened and maintained by ASL in the name of the Nominee Investor is ordinary income and will be assessable income of the Nominee Investor under section 6-5.

Trust income

46. To the extent that the net income of a trust created under a Nominee Property Investment constitutes net income other than capital gains (that is, rental income), the Nominee Investor shall be assessable under section 97 of the ITAA 1936 on so much of the share of that net income of the trust as reflects the proportion of income of the trust estate to which the Nominee Investor is presently entitled, as adjusted by Division 6E of the ITAA 1936.

47. Where the net income of a trust created under a Nominee Property Investment includes a net capital gain from the sale of a Sub-scheme Property, the Nominee Investor is assessable under Division 102 on so much of the share of the net capital gain of the trust estate as determined and adjusted by Subdivision 115-C. Subsection 115-215(3) may deem the Nominee Investor to have made a capital gain referable to their attributable gain as calculated under section 115-225. This deemed amount may then be used to determine the assessable capital gain of the Nominee Investor in order to take into account certain capital gains tax concessions claimed by ASL as the Trustee. The capital gains of the Nominee Investor may be further adjusted by subsection 115-215(4), if applicable, to ensure they are taxed on the gain as if they had made the gain and not the Trustee.

Section 104-70 – CGT event E4

48. A payment by ASL as Trustee of a trust created under a Nominee Property Investment to a Nominee Investor in respect of their Membership Interest in a Sub-scheme (except for CGT event A1, C2, E1, E2, E6 or E7 happening in relation to it), will give rise to a CGT event E4 under section 104-70 where some or all of the payment (the non-assessable part, as may be adjusted pursuant to subsection 104-71) is not included in the Nominee Investor's assessable income as per paragraphs 15(b) and (c) of this Product Ruling.

49. Where the sum of the non-assessable parts of payments made by ASL in the income year in respect of the Nominee Investor's Membership Interest is not more than the cost base of the Nominee Investor's Membership Interest, the cost base and reduced cost base of their Membership Interest will be reduced by that amount (subsection 104-70(6)).

Deductibility of amounts incurred by Nominee Investors

Fees

50. A loss or outgoing is deductible under section 8-1 if its essential character is that of expenditure that has a sufficient connection with the operations or activities which more directly gain or produce a taxpayer's assessable income, provided that the expenditure is not of a capital, private or domestic nature.

51. Any Management Fees, Managing Agent's Fees, Project Management Fees, Performance Fee and Debt Arranging Fees incurred by a Nominee Investor in respect of their Membership Interest in a Sub-scheme, from which they are expected to derive assessable income, are deductible under section 8-1 in the year in which they are incurred (Note: the meaning of incurred is explained in Taxation Ruling TR 97/7 *Income tax: section 8-1 – meaning of 'incurred' – timing of deductions*). The tests of deductibility under the first limb of section 8-1 are met, the exclusions do not apply and the amount of assessable income from the Nominee Investor's investment is expected to be in excess of the deductible expenditure they incur.

Section 51AAA

52. Under the scheme, it is contemplated that the Nominee Investor will derive assessable income other than by way of capital gains from their Membership Interest in a Sub-scheme (i.e. by way of their present entitlement to a share of the net income of the trust estate created under their Nominee Property Investment). As the Management Fees, Managing Agent's Fees, Project Management Fees, Performance Fee and Debt Arranging Fees will be deductible under section 8-1 of the ITAA 1997, notwithstanding the potential inclusion of a net capital gain in their assessable income, section 51AAA of the ITAA 1936 has no application to the Nominee Investor.

Application of the CGT provisions on assignment of a Membership Interest

CGT asset

53. Under subsection 108-5(1) a CGT asset is any kind of property or a legal or equitable right that is not property. The Membership Interest of a Nominee Investor in a Sub-scheme is

property and therefore a CGT asset according to the definition in subsection 108-5(1).

CGT event A1

54. An assignment by the Nominee Investor of their Membership Interest in a Sub-scheme to another Member or Members gives rise to a CGT event A1 (section 104-10).

55. The Nominee Investor will make a capital gain from this CGT event if the capital proceeds from the disposal of the Nominee Investor's asset are more than the asset's cost base or, alternatively, a capital loss from this CGT event if those capital proceeds are less than the asset's reduced cost base (subsection 104-10(4)).

56. The Nominee Investor's capital proceeds will be the amount they receive, or are entitled to receive, from the disposal (section 116-20).

57. At the time of acquiring the Membership Interest the Nominee Investor acquires a CGT asset with a cost base or reduced cost base that includes, as its first element, their Membership Contribution and the Contribution Fee (subsections 110-25(2) and 110-55(2)). The cost base or reduced cost base of the Nominee Investor's Membership Interest also includes, as its second element, all Acquisition and Due Diligence Fees incurred by the Nominee Investor (subsections 110-25(3) and 110-55(2)).

Discount capital gains

58. Division 115 allows a taxpayer a discount on capital gains in certain circumstances. In accordance with section 115-5, any capital gain realised by a Nominee Investor as a result of the assignment of their Membership Interest will be treated as a discount capital gain where the Nominee Investor is an individual, a complying superannuation entity, or a trust and has held that Membership Interest for at least 12 months (excluding the days of acquisition and disposal).

Part IVA – anti-avoidance

59. Provided that the scheme ruled on is entered into and carried out in the manner described in the scheme documentation and in the Scheme section of this Ruling, it is accepted that the scheme is an ordinary commercial transaction and that Part IVA of the ITAA 1936 will not apply.

Appendix 2 – Detailed contents list

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References

- Previous draft:*
- Not previously issued as a draft
- Related Rulings/Determinations:*
TR 97/7; PR 2011/18; PR 2015/8
- Legislative references:*
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