

OXTALES

Compiled by VK2IPO

Oxtales

GST

We all have heard about the Goods and Services Tax, the GST, but many of us still don't really understand how it works, so Our House spoke to financial expert and host of TV's Money program, Paul Clitheroe to help sort out how the new tax will apply to home buyers, builders and renovators. From 1 July 2000, a 10% tax will be added to the price of most goods and services, replacing a complicated mish-mash of taxes known collectively as the wholesale sales tax. Currently, some items attract no wholesale sales while on others it can be as high as 45%, so the 10% GST means some prices will rise and some

will fall as the tax system is standardised. Although the GST was intended to be a broad-based consumption tax, applied across the board, political manoeuvring's have resulted in many exemptions. The result is that the new tax is becoming almost as complicated as the old system, but it helps to know what is exempt under the new system. The introduction of the GST will have a significant effect on Australia's building and construction industry. As the new tax will be imposed on the sale price of new homes, housing and building associations expect a significant rise in the price of new properties compared to sales of existing houses.

Meanwhile, many renovators are scrambling to get work done before the June 30 cutoff, but the effect is that builders are in high demand, and setting their prices accordingly. So as Paul Clitheroe points out, there's no point in paying a 15% premium on your building costs to save paying 10% after June 30. Paul's advice: Buying Property. There will be no GST on the sale of existing homes. However, many of the costs associated with buying a house, such as agents' fees, will be taxed, and nobody is clear yet on whether the buyer or vendor will end up paying the extra charges.



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No GST is payable on unimproved land, but after June 30, improvements to a block will be taxed, so Paul's advice is, if you have land you're intending to build on and it needs work, for example, clearing, terracing or drainage, get the bobcat in before the end of June to avoid paying that extra 10%.

Both Paul and the Housing Industry Association expect the cost of a new house or apartment to rise by 5-8% after June 30.

First home buyers will get a Government rebate of \$7000.

Renting: Residential rents will not be subject to GST, but any repair or maintenance costs on tenanted properties paid for by the landlord after June 30 will rise by 10%.

Landlords will be able to claim all of these costs, including the GST component, as negative

gearing deductions in their annual tax returns, but Paul says it's reasonable to assume rents will rise by 2-3% under the new tax regime.

Renovating: If you are thinking about buying materials before the GST take effect, do some research. Some materials currently attract wholesale sales tax of between 12 and 22%, so as of July 1st their prices will come down. The accompanying table gives a comprehensive list of building

and housing materials, and shows the tax currently payable.

One example cited by Paul is that spa baths are now taxed as a luxury item, so they will be cheaper after June 30, but taps and fittings attract no sales tax.

So to save money, buy your taps now, but don't buy a spa bath until July.

Household Costs: Most telephone call charges will incur the GST as will most service and equipment charges. The GST applies to all local calls, however the Government has decided that the cost of a local call will be capped at 25 cents, while the cost of a local call from a public payphone will be capped at 40 cents. While local calls have been capped at these levels, they do include GST.

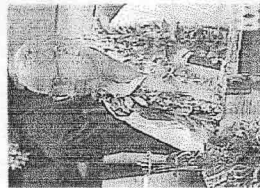
Council, water and sewerage rates and garbage collection fees are all GST exempt.

Electricity and gas are subject to GST, so those bills will be 10% higher.

GST applies to all service people, so tradesmen and labour costs will rise by 10%.

Electrical appliances: Once the GST legislation was passed, it became apparent that the cost of certain electrical goods, notably TVs VCRs, Stereo gear and video cameras, would become much cheaper

once the 32% luxury tax was replaced by a 10% GST. The fear was that people would delay purchasing these items until after the GST, so on 1 July 1999, the government reduced the sales tax on these items to 22% in an effort to keep sales ticking over. However, although these items have come down in price, they will reduce still further after June 30, so Paul's advice is, wait until July before lashing out on new electrical gear.



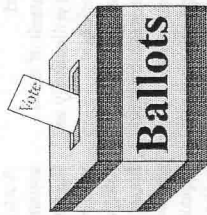
John Howard

Has he helped us, or hindered us?

And for those who are confused about the GST, Paul's final word: It's not the GST that's a mess, it's our present tax system. Rather than a range of seemingly arbitrary tax rates, the GST imposes a flat 10% on everything, and that's got to be easier to understand. Further information is available through the Australian Taxation Office.

Visit their website at: www.taxreform.ato.gov.au.

You can also phone their Tax Reform Hotline on 13 24 78.



(Continued from page 6)

meters 0100-0830z, 40 meters 0000-0930z, 30 meters 2330-1030z, 20 meters 1400-1600z and 2200-0000z, 17 meters 1430-2100z, 15 meters 1500-2000z, 12 meters 1600-1830z, 10 meters around 1700z.

To Eastern Europe, 80 meters 0030-0630z, 40 meters 0000-0800z, 30 meters 2330-0830z, 20 meters 1330-1530z, 17 meters 1430-1830z, 15 meters 1530-1800z, 12 meters 1600-1630z.

To Southern Africa, 80 meters 0030-0430z, 40 meters 0030-0500z, 30 meters and 20 meters 2330-0530z, 17 meters 2300-0100z, 15 meters

2300-0000z, 12 meters 2130-0230z, 10 meters 2200-0130z.

To South America, 80 meters 0100-1000z, 40 meters 0030-1030z, 30 meters 0000-1100z, 20 meters 2330-1200z, 17 meters 1330-1400z and 2230-0500z, 15 meters 1400-1500z and 2130-0230z, 12 meters 1430-1600z and 2030-0200z, 10 meters 1500-0100z.

To the Caribbean, 80 meters 0000-1130z, 40 meters 2330-1230z, 30 meters 2200-1400z, 20 meters 1300-0830z, 17 meters 1400-0100z, 15 meters 1430-0000z, 12 meters 1500-2300z, 10 meters 1530-2200z.

he seems to be busy, and in no rush to get their dishes on the tower so we can get our antennas back up. The Tele-Point repeater on

Currently our 146.70 machine is still not back on the air. Dave, VK2DAL, has been in touch with the channel 9 Engineer frequently, but

147.00 continues to serve us well though. So, through our patience we will persevere. Keep up the good work, Dave.

146.70 Repeater News

Down the Coax

John moyle Field Day - March 19, 2000

Wyong Hamfest - Sunday February 27, 2000

ORARC Club Meeting - Saturday March 4, 2000

ORARC Social meeting - Friday March 17, 2000

To Australia, 80 and 40 meters 0930-1500z, 30 meters 0900-1500z, 20 meters 0830-1530z, 17 meters 0700-1100z and 1500-1630z, 15 meters around 1500z and around 0430z.

To Japan, 80 meters 0800-1500z, 40 meters 0700-1500z, 30 meters 0630-1600z, 20 meters 0530-1700z, 17 meters 2100-0430z, 15 meters 2100-0400z, 12 meters

2130-0230z, 10 meters 2200-0130z.

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Windows Millennium
Dear Help Station,
I'd like to have some more info on Windows Millennium. I've looked everywhere and can't find anything. Do you know if it will support more RAM than Windows 98 or not? Will it be like a Windows 2000 lite? Will it be 64-bit? - marc teleki
Answer:
Microsoft intends Win-

dows Millennium to be the replacement for Win 98 and it's aimed at the consumer market. Win2K is the replacement for NT4 (the early beta versions of Win2K were called NT5) and it's aimed at the business market. Check out the March 2000 PC



What will Gatsie come up with next?

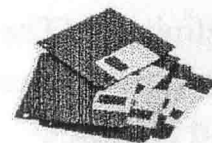
User, which was an operating systems special. It includes features on Millennium and Win2K, as well as a comparison table for these and several other operating systems.
Link Harris

Windows 2000

Hardware requirements for Win2K and Win98
Dear Help Station,
I have a P200MMX, 32Mb RAM, 2.5Gb hard drive, Intel 430 HX chipset, PCI, Sound Blaster AWE 32 and a Tseng Labs ET6000 4Mb video card. Would my system be enough to run Windows 98? Windows 2000 Professional? I recently upgraded my Windows 95 to 98. I am experiencing lower

performance than Windows 95! Microsoft claims that it provides better performance. Is this true? Can I turn the graphics on the side of My Computer, Control Panel etc off?
If my system is not good enough, what should I upgrade? -
Wilan Wong
Your PC should work well with Win98. The poor performance is probably because you upgraded the

operating system instead of doing a clean install of Win98. You would need more RAM and hard disk space for Win2KPro. It requires at least 64Mb and preferably 128Mb of RAM, and the operating system itself grabs about 2Gb of hard disk space.
Link Harris



Is newer better?

Oxley Amateur Radio
P.O. Box 712
Phone: 6584.0495
Pres: Charles Edmunson

We're on the Web.
[Http://www.orarc.tsn.cc](http://www.orarc.tsn.cc)



The ORARC was founded in 1972. Founding associates being A. Monck VK2ATM, & Peter Alexander, who is now a silent key. We are a Non-Profit organization who fosters the needs of communications & health & welfare matters in time of need. We meet the First Saturday of each month at the S.E.S Building in Port Macquarie at 1 p.m. We also have a social hour get-together on the 3rd Friday of each month at 7 p.m.

FCC License restructuring in USA

1. Will anyone lose any Amateur Radio operating privileges after April 15, 2000?
No! All current license classes and privileges will remain the same, and all licensees will be able to renew their licenses indefinitely. (The sole exception is for those who obtained a Technician license or exam credit prior to March 21, 1987--see

question 4, below.) The primary difference is that the FCC will stop issuing new Novice and Advanced class licenses after April 15, 2000. Beyond that, current Technician and Technician Plus licensees will be lumped into a single Technician licensee FCC database. When renewed, current Technician Plus licenses will be stamped simply

"Technician." Technicians who have passed Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse code examination, will enjoy current Tech Plus HF privileges, but the burden of proof of having passed Element 1 (5 WPM or any higher Morse code element) will be on the licensee. The current "no-code" Technician license will continue

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to be available after the new rules go into effect, however. It

will continue to offer the present VHF/UHF privileges.

2. I currently hold a Tech Plus license. Can I take the current General class written examination (Element 3B) right now, then apply for an upgrade to General after April 15, 2000? I'm a little confused on this point.

Yes. The FCC has told the League that current Tech Plus licensees holding a Certificate of Successful Completion

of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3B on April 15, 2000, may apply for a General class upgrade. The present Element

3B examination has 30 questions; the new Element 3 test will have 35, so the advantage to test before April 15, 2000,

is slight. CSCE holders must attend a Volunteer Examiner session, complete Form 605, attach a valid CSCE, and pay

the required application fee (\$6.65 for the ARRL-VEC),

if the VEC you use charges a fee. To be valid on April 15, 2000, your CSCE will have to be dated on or after April 17, 1999. A CSCE is only good for 365 days. (See also A Summary of Restructuring Upgrade Possibilities.)

3. I hold an Advanced class license. Can I take the current Amateur Extra class written examination (Element 4B) right now, then apply for an upgrade to Extra after April 15, 2000?

Yes. The FCC has told the League that current Advanced licensees holding a CSCE for Element 4B on April 15,

2000, may apply for an Amateur Extra class upgrade. See question 2, above. The advantage here is that the current

Advanced licensee will face a slightly shorter 40-question examination under the current licensing regime to get a

CSCE for the current

Element 4B. The new Extra class Element 4 will contain 50 questions (and is expected to contain many of the present Advanced class question pool technical questions). To be valid on April 15, 2000, your CSCE will have to be dated on or after April 17, 1999. A CSCE is only good for 365 days. (See also A Summary of Restructuring Upgrade Possibilities.)

4. I've got an Advanced ticket now. Someone told me that I'll revert to General on April 15, 2000. Is this true?

Absolutely not, although this rumor has been making the rounds on the Internet and on-air discussion groups. You will continue to be an Advanced class licensee and have Advanced class privileges after April 15. Again, no one loses any privileges, and all license classes stay the same.

Propagation Forecast

SB PROP ARL

ARLP007

ARLP007 Propagation
de K7VVV

Solar flux and sunspot counts increased the week before last, fell last week, and the averages for both weeks were about the same.

Average solar flux was down about 11 points last week, and average sunspot numbers were off by a little over one point. Last weekend had a surprising burst of geomagnetic activity, when Saturday's planetary A index was 52. The planetary K index was as high as 7, and Alaska's College A index, which is frequently higher because of its proximity to the pole, was 71. During a six hour period, from 0600-1200z, the planetary A index was 7 and 6 while the College A index was 8 and 7.

These all indicate severe geomagnetic storm levels.

What should we see over the next week?

For the next five days, Friday through Tuesday, solar flux is predicted to be 155, 150, 150, 145 and 145. Planetary A index for those same days is forecast to be 5, 5, 12, 8 and 8. For best HF conditions, we want a low A index in the single digits, and rising solar flux. So Sunday, February 20 with a planetary A index of 12 could be somewhat unsettled.

Solar flux for the short term is expected to bottom out near 130 around February 25, then rise to about 150 by March 1, but peak broadly and fairly low near 175 around March 4-8. The next predicted short term minimum is forecast for March 23-24. Of course these are all guesses based upon activity over previous solar rotations, which occur about every 27.5 days. Since the predicted high levels of 175 are much lower than previous rotations where solar flux was above 200,

this means that the prediction is based upon sunspot regions which are currently fading. Any new sunspot areas will probably result in increased solar flux and better HF conditions. With spring coming, it would be nice to see extended worldwide openings on 10 and 12 meters again, which would accompany the high flux levels normally expected in a peak year of a solar cycle.

Sunspot numbers for February 10 through 16 were 172, 184, 157, 147, 158, 158 and 182 with a mean of 165.4. 10.7 cm flux was 175.7, 170.2, 163.2, 159.9, 158.7, 156 and 160.2, with a mean of 163.4, and estimated planetary A indices were 7, 13, 52, 14, 29, 11 and 5, with a mean of 18.7.

Path projections for this weekend are from a place in Arizona between Tucson and Phoenix, near Eloy. To Western Europe, 80

(Continued from page 6)

meters 0100-0830z, 40
meters 0000-0930z, 30
meters 2330-1030z, 20
meters 1400-1600z and
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1500-2000z, 12 meters
1600-1830z, 10 meters
around 1700z.

To Eastern Europe, 80
meters 0030-0630z, 40
meters 0000-0800z, 30
meters 2330-0830z, 20
meters 1330-1530z, 17
meters 1430-1830z, 15
meters 1530-1800z, 12
meters 1600-1630z.

To Southern Africa, 80
meters 0030-0430z, 40
meters 0030-0500z, 30
meters and 20 meters
2330-0530z, 17 meters
2300-0100z, 15 meters

2300-0000z, 12 meters
2130-2230z, 10 meters
2000-2130z.

To South America, 80
meters 0100-1000z, 40
meters 0030-1030z, 30
meters 0000-1100z, 20
meters 2330-1200z, 17
meters 1330-1400z and
2230-0500z, 15 meters
1400-1500z and 2130-
0230z, 12 meters
1430-1600z and 2030-
0200z, 10 meters 1500-
0100z.

To the Caribbean, 80
meters 0000-1130z, 40
meters 2330-1230z, 30
meters 2200-1400z, 20
meters 1300-0830z, 17
meters 1400-0100z, 15
meters 1430-0000z, 12
meters 1500-2300z, 10
meters 1530-2200z.

To Australia, 80 and 40
meters 0930-1500z, 30
meters 0900-1500z, 20
meters 0830-1530z, 17
meters 0700-1100z and
1500-1630z, 15 meters
around 1500z and around
0430z.

To Japan, 80 meters
0800-1500z, 40 meters
0700-1500z, 30 meters
0630-1600z, 20 meters
0530-1700z, 17 meters
2100-0430z, 15 meters
2100-0400z, 12 meters



2130-0230z, 10 meters
2200-0130z.

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**OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.
MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.**

1	F	JOHN ((FLORENCE))	BAILEY	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2	F	JOHN ((MARY))	BAYLIS	VK2JB	LAKE CATHIE	
3	D	ALAN	BELL	VK2BEL	WOOTTON	02 4997.7293
4	F	COLIN ((JAN))	BELLENGER	VK2AF	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3803
5	F	BOB	BRODIE	VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
6	F	ROY W ((JUNE))	BURGES	VK2YOR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9349
7	F	BRUCE	CLARK	VK2MAZ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5245
8	F	LARRY ((SHIRLEY))	CONNER	VK2IPO	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.6924
9	F	KEVIN ((JUNE))	COULTER	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8325
10	F	IAN	DALRYMPLE	VK2XU	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9922
11	F	TRACY ((CINDY))	DIGNUM	VK2GTM	HERONS CREEK	02 65 85.7061
12	F	CHARLES ((PAT))	EDMONDSON	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
13	D	STAN ((BETTY))	ELLIS	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
14	F	BADEN ((VALERY))	GLEESON	VK2MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2018
15	F	KENNETH ((-))	GWINNELL		PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2860
16	L	KEITH	HANLON -		PORT MACQUARIE	-
17	L	PETER	HILL	VK2BZA	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.5349
18	F	SNOW	HODDER	VK2DV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7095
19	F	WILL ((CAROL))	JAMIESON	VK2XXU	DUNBOGAN	02 6559.8622
20	F	JOHN ((THEA))	JONES	VK2JJ	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.4522
21	F	DON	JONES		PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5084
22	D	BRIAN	KELLY	VK2WBK	TAMWORTH	02 6776.2004
23	F	GARRY ((LINDA))	LAWER -		PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0597
24	F	JACK	LEEDS	VK2KN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5991
25	L	LARRY	LINDSAY	VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
26	L	HENRY	LUNDELL	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	-
27	F	KEITH ((GWEN))	LUTTON	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0321
28	F	ALLAN ((DAWN))	MADIGAN	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
29	F	JASON	MARIS	VK2FT	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0426
30	F	JIM	MCINTYRE	VK2CJM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5696
31	F	JOHN	MCLEAN	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7400
32	F	TERRY	MEEHAN	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
33	L	ARTHUR ((WENDY))	MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
34	F	LAURIE ((ROBIN))	NEWHAM	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
35	F	ALAN	NUTT	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
36	F	DAVID A ((DEE))	PILLEY	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
37	F	BILL	ROTH	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.1776
38	F	NEIL ((VERENA))	SANDFORD	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
39	F	BILL ((RUTH))	SINCLAIR	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
40	F	DAVID ((ROMA))	SMITH	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.1004
41	D	DARYL	ST. JOHN	VK2MZ	FORSTER	
42	F	DAVID ((AILEEN))	TARRANT	VK2HBC	SARATOGA	02 4369.8738
43	F	TREVOR ((PHYLLIS))	THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
44	F	NEIL ((WENDY))	TROTTER	VK2NNT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.1940
45	F	BRUCE ((GWEN))	WALKER	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
46	F	JIM	WEBSTER	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	-

F = Full Member

D = Distant Member

L = Life Member

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