

Streaming franked dividends, capital gains, Cash flow boost and JobKeeper through trusts

Nexia Tax Alliance & NEXTension

16 June 2020



David Montani
National Tax Director

Introduction

- Many clients uses trusts
 - Business
 - Holding entity
 - Investments
 - Other
- Rely on us to manage taxation outcomes, advise
- Confidence

Today's session

- Background on taxing trust income
- Definition of trust income in deed, absence
- "Trust income", "net income", "distributable income", "taxable income"
- Streaming franked dividends and capital gains
- Practical approach
- Tax return disclosures
- Dealing with JobKeeper and Cash flow boost amounts

Brief history

- Pre-CGT
- Pt III, Division 6 ITAA36 (taxing trust income)
- EM to original CGT Bill
- *Zeta Force v FC of T* (1998)
 - Proportionate approach
- *Bamford v FCT* (2010)
 - Trust income
- 2011 “interim” amendments
 - Division 6E ITAA36 (modifies taxing trust income)
 - Subdiv 115-C ITAA97 (capital gains)
 - Subdiv 207-B ITAA97 (franked dividends)

What governs trusts

- Trust Deed
- State Trustees Acts
- Case Law
- Taxation:
 - Income Tax Assessment Act 1997
 - Income Tax Assessment Act 1936
 - State Duties Acts
 - Commissioner's views in Rulings and Determinations

Trust deeds

- Sets out trustee's powers, purpose of the trust, how the trustee exercises powers
- Many aspects of state Trustees Acts incorporated into trust deeds
- Often need to refer to the trust deed to resolve issues of governance
- May include a definition of trust income
 - Standard in modern deeds
 - Trustee include/exclude power
 - Review, amend

Taxation of Beneficiaries

s 97

- Division 6, Part III, 1936 Act
- General assessing provision is s97 1936 Act
- Extract from s97 (for as a resident beneficiary):
 - *“where a beneficiary is **presently entitled** to a **share** of the **income of the trust**, the assessable income of a beneficiary shall include:*
 - *that share of the **net income** of the trust”*
- S98 – trustee assessed for beneficiaries under a legal disability; marginal rates

Concepts

s 97

- “Presently entitled”
- “Share” and “that share”
- “Income of a trust”
- “Net income”
- Leading into “distributable income”

Present Entitlement

s 97

- *FC of T v Whiting (1943)*
- Indefeasible, absolutely vested, beneficial interest
- Must not be contingent
- Must be such that beneficiary can demand payment (*Harmer v FCT (1991)*)
- Most standard trustee resolutions for discretionary trusts generally have the above effect

“Share” and “that share”

s 97

- “Share” means a proportionate share (*Zeta Force v FCT (1998)*), as in a percentage:
 - Does not mean a share as in the same dollar amount (Quantum approach)
 - Beneficiary presently entitled to 60% of trust income, assessed on 60% of the net income (taxable income)

Income of the trust

No definition of income in the deed

- Income according to the common law of trusts
- Generally means “income” according to ordinary concepts
- Does not include receipts of a capital nature or capital gains
- Trust capital is anything that is not trust income

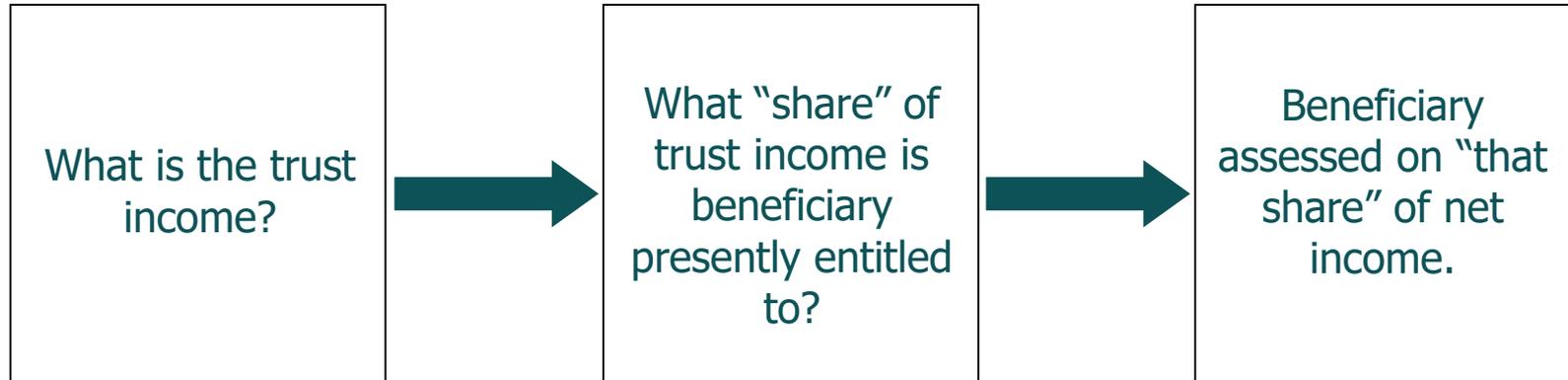
Net Income

s 97

- “Essentially **taxable income** (s 95)
- Modifications may arise in relation to:
 - Farm management deposit deductions
 - Non-corporus beneficiaries
 - Life tenants
 - Losses or deductions denied under the trust loss rules

Income & Net Income

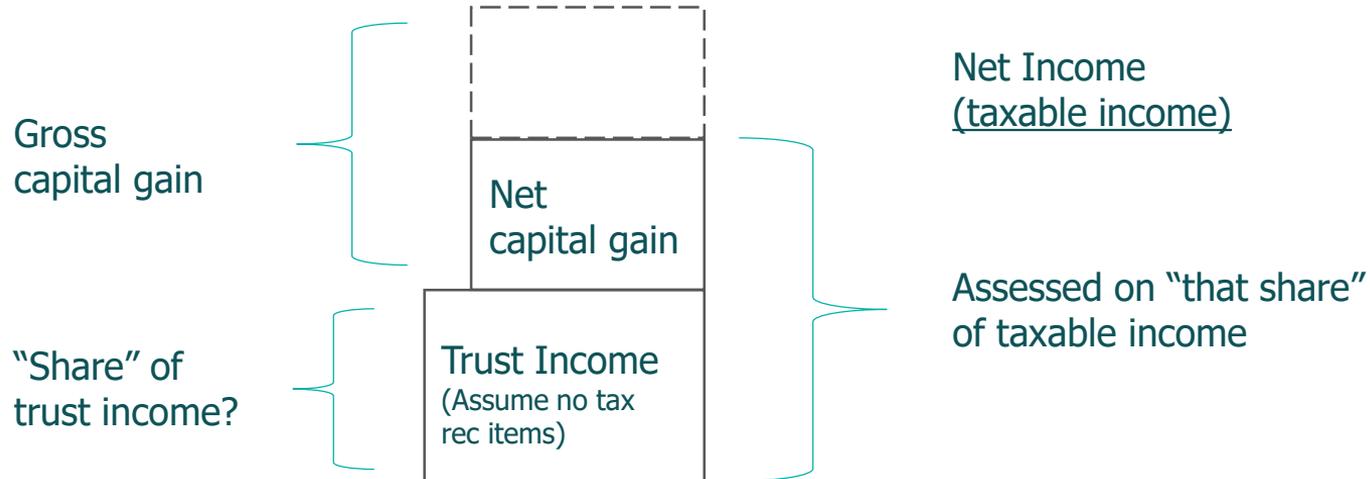
- s97 borrows “trust income” to assess “net income” (taxable income) to a beneficiary



Income & Net Income

No definition of income in the deed

- How this may apply to a trust with a net capital gain



Proportionate Approach

Example 1

- The Baker Family Trust derived the following during 2019/20:

		\$
Interest income:	20,000	
Capital gain:	80,000	(assume no discount/indexation)
Total	<u>100,000</u>	

- No definition of income in the deed

Proportionate Approach

Example 1

- Trustee confers the following present entitlements:
 - Beneficiary A: 100% of the interest income; and
 - Beneficiary B: 100% of the capital gain
- For 2019/20:
 - “Trust income” is \$20,000 (i.e. does not include capital);
 - “Net income” (e.g. taxable income) is \$100,000

Proportionate Approach

Example 1

- Beneficiary A is presently entitled to 100% of the “trust income”.
- Therefore, s97 assesses Beneficiary A on that same share of net income (taxable income).

	Beneficiary A	Beneficiary B
Present entitlements conferred	\$20,000	\$80,000
Percentage of “trust income”	100%	0%
S97 assesses above percentage of net income	\$100,000	nil

Proportionate Approach

Example 2

- Newman Family Trust's 2019/20 tax reconciliation is as follows:

	\$
Net profit per P&L (all business profit)	100,000
Add – non-deductible entertainment	10,000
Taxable income	<u>110,000</u>

- The trust deed does not contain a definition of income

Proportionate Approach

Example 2

- The trustee resolves to appoint the 2019/20 income as follows:

Beneficiary	Income appointment
David Newman	The first \$40,000
Sally Newman	The next \$40,000
Newman Pty Ltd	The balance

Proportionate Approach

Example 2

- Tax outcome as follows:

Beneficiary	Trust income \$	Proportion of Trust income %	Assessable amount per s97 \$
David Newman	40,000	40%	44,000
Sally Newman	40,000	40%	44,000
Newman Pty Ltd	20,000	20%	22,000
Total	100,000	100%	110,000

- Reverse-worded style of resolution

No Beneficiary Presently Entitled

- Where any part of trust's net income not assessed to a beneficiary under s97, trustee assessed under s99/99A
- 47% (s99A). Individual rates in certain cases e.g. deceased estate (s99)
- A later distribution of the taxed income to a beneficiary is exempt

Resolution appointing trust income

- Must be made by 30 June (*case R105, Estate Mortgage, Colonial*)
 - Or earlier, if deed requires
- Minutes of meeting/resolution typically prepared and signed later
- Default beneficiary clause
 - If not appropriately drafted, ineffective (*BRK (Bris) V FCT (2001)*)
 - If ineffective, trustee assessed

Income of the Trust

Disputed meaning

- Commissioner's view: income under common law i.e.
 - Excludes capital receipts or a capital gain
 - Deed cannot modify
- Other view: trust deed can modify above

Distributable Income

Cajkusic v FC of T (2006)

- “Distributable income” generally means trust income as defined under the trust deed
- Forms the basis of beneficiaries’ entitlements to trust income
- Trust deed may modify the meaning of trust income for s97 e.g.:
 - Treating capital receipts as income
 - Defining income as being equal to s95 1936 Act (taxable income). Includes a net capital gain
 - Trustee discretion

Trust Income – Case Law

Bamford v FCT (2008) – AAT

- ATO denied a deduction, increasing trust's taxable income
- Taxable income now exceeded trust income
- Taxpayer argued excess should be assessed to trustee under Quantum approach
- Court affirmed *Zeta Force*. Proportionate approach applied
 - All beneficiaries had their share of taxable income increased
- "Income of the trust" in s97 means distributable income
 - Comments in *Cajkusic* not obiter; ratio (i.e. binding)

Trust Income – Case Law

Bamford v FCT (2009)

- Appeal to Full Federal Court
- Taxpayer appealed against use of proportionate approach and other matters
- Commissioner invited the Full Court to consider the correctness of *Cajkusic*

Trust Income – Case Law

Bamford

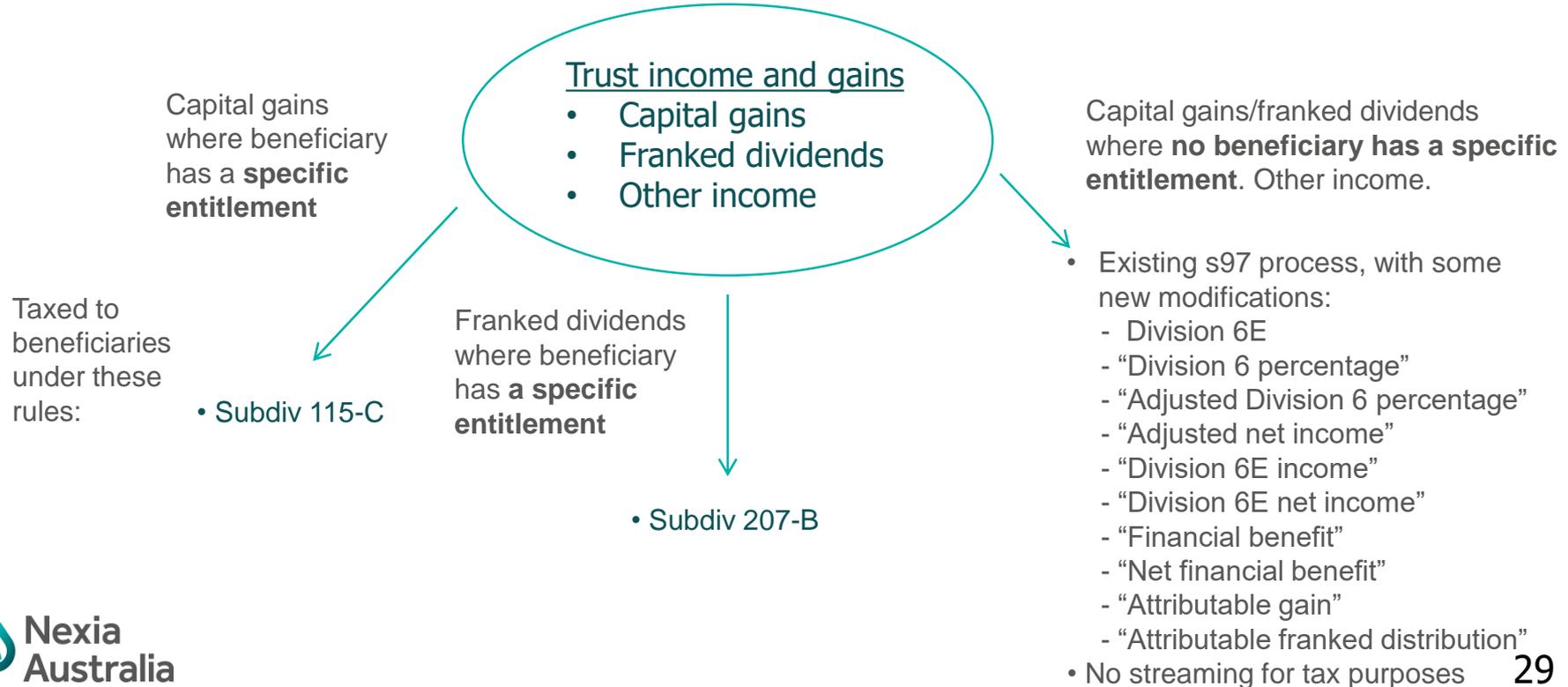
- Confirmed proportionate approach applies, even where specific dollar amounts are appointed
- “Income of the trust” for s97 purposes is ordinary income, as modified by the relevant trust deed i.e. distributable income
- High court confirmed (*CoT v Bamford [2010] HCA10*)
- *FCT v Thomas* – cannot stream franking credits separately from dividend

Streaming trust income

- “Interim” reforms in 2011
- Stream franked dividends and capital gains:
 - Specific entitlement
- In Commissioner’s opinion, other income cannot be streamed

Taxation of beneficiaries

- Illustrated as follows:



Taxation of beneficiaries

- Modifications to operation of s 97:
 - Trust income and taxable income are worked out, ignoring CG/FD subject to **specific entitlement**
 - Proportionate approach applies to remainder
- Where specific entitlements for all CGs and FDs, clean carve-out arises. i.e.:
 - CGs taxed under Subdiv 115-C
 - FDs taxed under Subdiv 207-B
 - Remainder taxed via existing s97 process
 - **The modifications have little practical impact**

Specifically entitled

- Tax law concept
- More strict than trust law “present entitlement” concept
- Key requirement for “carve-out” treatment of CGs and FDs
- **Trustee must have streaming power under trust deed**. i.e. the deed:
 - Recognises income and other receipts of a different character or nature; and
 - Empowers trustee to separately deal with different types of income/receipts
- Tax law relies on the trust deed

Specific entitlement

CGs & FDs

- To stream FD and net CG to different beneficiaries, trustee resolution must stipulate a “specific entitlement”
- If not, will be only a general entitlement to trust income
 - Beneficiaries assessed on a share of both FD and net CG

Specifically entitled

CGs & FDs

- Tax law changes do not (and cannot) give trustees streaming power
 - Only the trust deed can do that
- Therefore, where trustee:
 - Has **power to stream** under the deed; and
 - Confers, not just a present entitlement, but a (stricter) **specific entitlement** to a CG/FD, the CG/FD is taxed to beneficiary, retaining their character.

Specifically entitled

CGs & FDs

- Tax treatment follows streaming for trust purposes
- Other types of income may be streamed for trust purposes, but streaming not recognised for tax purposes
- Trade off:
 - Specifically entitled CG and FD retain character; and
 - No streaming for tax purposes for all other amounts. Based on obiter in *Colonial* case

Streaming non-CG/FD income

Example 3

- A trust has two types of income
 - Rent
 - Interest
- Trustee appoints **rent** to Beneficiary A, **interest** to Beneficiary B
 - Income category relevant only for trust entitlements
 - A and B taxed on proportionate share of each category
- Does it matter?
 - What if one beneficiary was a non-resident?

3-pots approach

- Need to determine the components of trust income and taxable income
- Broad practical approach:
 - Divide the trust's accounting profit into the following:

Franked dividends
(Benchmark % > 0)
(i.e. The 70c or 72.5c –
don't add ICs)
Less
Directly related expenses

Positive



Specific
Entitlement

Gross Capital Gains
(i.e. Not reduced by
discount, concessions)

Positive



Specific
Entitlement

Everything else:

- All other income
(including unfranked
dividends)
- All other expenses

Positive



Confer present
entitlement in
usual manner

Franked Dividends

Franked dividends

(i.e. The 70c or 72.5c – don't add ICs)

Less

Directly related expenses

Gross Capital Gains

(i.e. Not reduced by discount, concessions)

Everything else:

- All other income
- All other expenses

Negative

- Provided there is:
 1. Positive trust income overall; and
 2. Taxable income.the imputation credits can flow to beneficiaries.
- Is there a capital gain? Other?
- Trust income definition.

Trusts and franking credits

▪ FDs and expenses.

Franked dividends

(i.e. The 70c or 72.5c –
don't add ICs)

Less

Directly related expenses

Gross Capital Gains

(i.e. Not reduced by
discount, concessions)

Everything else:

- All other income
- All other expenses

Positive

None

Negative

1. Positive exceeds negative?
Specific entitlement to FD

2. Negative exceeds positive?
No trust income.

Trustee assessed on any taxable income, less ICs.

Rateable reduction for other expenses

- Attributable franked dividends and net capital gains are further reduced if there are other net deductible expenses.
 - i.e. All other deductions exceed all other income.
- If a trust has either franked dividends or a net capital gain, it is reduced.
- If a trust has both, reduced rateably.

Franked dividends
(i.e. The 70c or 72.5c –
don't add ICs)
Less
Directly related expenses

Gross Capital Gains
(i.e. Not reduced by
discount, concessions)

Everything else:

- All other income
- All other expenses

Positive



Specific
Entitlement

Rateably reduce
this amount

Positive



Specific
Entitlement

Negative

Rateably reduce
net capital gain

Rateable reduction

Example 4 – P&L

- Hill Family Trust

2020 P&L	\$
<u>Income</u>	
Franked dividends	70,000
Capital gain	100,000
Rent	45,000
Total	215,000
<u>Expenses</u>	
Interest - dividends	8,000
Fines	1,000
Rental expenses	55,000
Total	64,000
Net profit	151,000

Rateable reduction

Example 4 – tax rec

- Hill Family Trust

2020 Tax Reconciliation	\$	
Accounting profit	151,000	
<u>ADD</u>		
Imputation credits	30,000	(\$70,000 x ³⁰ / ₇₀)
Net capital gain	50,000	(i.e. 50%)
Fines	1,000	
<u>DEDUCT</u>		
Gross capital gain	(100,000)	
Taxable income	132,000	

Rateable reduction

Example 4 – rateable reduction

Steps		Franked dividends		Capital gain		Other	Total
			\$			Rent	45,000
1	Financial statements	FD	70,000			Rent Expenses	(55,000)
		Directly related expenses	(8,000)			Fines	(1,000)
		Total	62,000		100,000		(11,000)
2	Tax rec adjustments	Imputation credits	30,000	50% discount	(50,000)	Non-deductible fines	1,000
						Total	(10,000)
3	Rateable reduction		(5,536)		(4,464)		
4	Taxable income		\$86,464 (Inc. \$30k imputation credits)		\$45,536 (net CG)		\$132,000

$$\frac{\$62,000}{\$62,000 + \$50,000 \text{ (net CG)}} \times \$10,000 = \$5,536$$

$$\frac{\$50,000 \text{ (net CG)}}{\$62,000 + \$50,000 \text{ (net CG)}} \times \$10,000 = \$4,464$$

Rateable reduction

Example 4 – what if...?

- What if the CG were not a discount CG?
- What if the CG was exempt, or reduced to nil by concessions?

Rateable reduction

Example 4 – UPEs in financials

- How much trust income appoint in the accounts?
- No particular rule

Financial statements	FD \$	CG \$	Other \$	Total \$
Accounts	70,000			
Directly related expenses	(8,000)			
Total	62,000	100,000	(11,000)	151,000
Rateable reduction	(5,536)	(4,464)		
Fines (same proportion)	(554)	(446)		
Appoint to beneficiaries in financial statements	55,910	95,090		151,000
To restate: Assessable for Tax	86,464	45,536		132,000

- Need to work with trust deed's definition of income. (Incl imp cr) (net CG)

Beneficiary appointed net CG

Example 4

- Net CG of \$45,536 doubled to \$91,072
- Apply any capital losses of beneficiary's
- Reduce by 50% discount
- Disclose net CG

Trust information

TYPE OF TRUST	I - Discretionary trust - investment activities
Is this also a Charitable Trust?	No
MANAGED INVESTMENT TRUSTS	
If the trust is a managed investment trust, has the trustee made an election into capital account treatment?	No
Is any tax payable by the trustee?	No
Final tax return?	No

Income excluding foreign income

5 BUSINESS INCOME AND EXPENSES

Income	Primary production	Non-primary production	Totals
Total business income			
Is the trust a small business entity?			
Net small business income		V	
9 RENT			
Gross rent	F	\$45,000.00	
Interest deductions	G	\$0.00	Net "other" loss
Capital works deductions	X	\$0.00	
Other rental deductions	H	\$55,000.00	
Net rent		(F - G - X - H)	(\$10,000.00)
12 DIVIDENDS			
Franked amount		L	\$70,000.00
Franking credit		M	\$30,000.00
15 Total of items 5 to 14			\$90,000

Deductions

16 DEDUCTIONS RELATING TO:		
Australian investment income	P	\$8,000.00
19 TOTAL OF ITEMS 16 TO 18		\$8,000.00
20 NET AUSTRALIAN INCOME - OTHER THAN CAPITAL GAINS		\$82,000.00

Deductions directly related to FDs

Capital gains and foreign income

21 CAPITAL GAINS

Prior year losses brought forward

Did you have a CGT event during the year?	G	Yes
Have you applied an exemption or rollover?	M	No
Net capital gain	A	\$50,000.00

Foreign income

22 ATTRIBUTED FOREIGN INCOME

Did you have overseas branch operations or a direct or indirect interest in a foreign trust, foreign company, controlled foreign entity or transferor trust?	S	No
24 TOTAL OF ITEMS 20 TO 23		\$132,000.00
26 TOTAL NET INCOME		\$132,000.00
29 OVERSEAS TRANSACTIONS		Taxable income

Was the aggregate amount of your transactions or dealings with international related parties greater than \$2 million?	W	No
--	---	----

Thin capitalisation

Did the thin capitalisation provisions affect you?	D	No
Was any beneficiary who was not a resident of Australia at any time during the income year 'presently entitled' to a share of the income of the trust?	A	No
Transactions with specified countries	C	No

30 PERSONAL SERVICES INCOME

Does your income include an individual's personal services income? (PSI)	N	No
--	---	----

Business and professional items

54 INCOME OF THE TRUST ESTATE	A	\$151,000.00
-------------------------------	---	--------------

Beneficiary not entitled

57 BENEFICIARY UNDER LEGAL DISABILITY WHO IS PRESENTLY ENTITLED TO INCOME FROM ANOTHER TRUST		No
58 NON-RESIDENT TRUST		
Is the trust a non-resident trust?		No

Beneficiary

Tax File Number _____ TFN Recorded _____ Entity code **U** I - Individual

INDIVIDUAL NAME

Title	Given name	Other given names	Family name	Suffix	Date of birth

RESIDENTIAL / BUSINESS ADDRESS

Address	Town/City	State	Postcode

Distribution type **Manual**

Assessment calculation code	V	30
	Inter	Not under legal disability
Share of income of the trust estate	W	\$151,000.00
Credit for tax withheld - foreign resident withholding (excluding capital gains)	L	\$0.00
Australian franking credits from a New Zealand franking company	N	\$0.00

SHARE OF INCOME

Non-primary production	B	(\$13,536.00)
Credit for tax withheld where ABN not quoted	C	\$0.00
Franked distributions	U	\$100,000.00
Franking credit	D	\$30,000.00
TFN amounts withheld	E	\$0.00
Share of credit for TFN amounts withheld from payments from closely held companies	O	\$0.00
Capital gains	F	\$45,536.00
Share of credit for foreign resident capital gains withholding amounts	Z	\$0.00

Attributed foreign income		\$0.00
Other assessable foreign source income		\$0.00
Foreign income tax offset		\$0.00
Share of national rental affordability scheme tax offset		\$0.00
Exploration credits distributed		\$0.00

SMALL BUSINESS INCOME TAX OFFSET INFORMATION

Share of net small business income		\$0.00
------------------------------------	--	--------

This is the \$8,000 of directly related expenses, plus \$5,536 rateable reduction = \$13,536

\$100,000 - \$13,536 = \$86,464 as per our calculation
 The \$86,464 is the FD (\$70k), less direct expenses (\$8k), plus ICs (\$30k), rateably reduced by \$5,536 per s207-37
 This will go into the beneficiary's return

This is the \$50,000 net CG, rateably reduced by \$4,464 in accordance with s115-225
 Even though the net CG in the return is \$50,000, \$45,536 is the attributed net CG to the beneficiary. There is no error message.
 Grossed-up CG of \$91,072 goes in the beneficiary's return, then apply cap losses, discount.

Supplementary section

13 PARTNERSHIPS AND TRUSTS

Primary production			
Distribution from partnerships	N		
Share of net income from trusts	L		
Landcare operations and deduction for decline in value of water facility, fencing asset and fodder storage asset	I		
Other deductions relating to amounts shown at N and L	X		
Net primary production amount			
Non-primary production			
Distribution from partnerships relating to financial investments, less foreign income			
Share of net rental property income or loss from partnerships			
Other distributions from partnerships			
Distribution from partnerships less foreign income	O	\$0.00	
Share of net income from trusts less capital gains, foreign income and franked distributions	U	(\$13,536.00)	
Franked distributions from trusts	C	\$100,000.00	
Land-care operations expenses	J		
Other deductions relating to amounts shown at O, U and C	Y		
Net non-primary production amount			\$86,464.00
Partnership share of net small business income less deductions attributable to that share			
Trust share of net small business income less deductions attributable to that share			
Share of credits from income and tax offsets			
Share of credit for tax withheld where Australian business number not quoted			
Share of franking credit from franked dividends			
		Q	\$30,000.00
Share of credit for TFN amounts withheld from interest, dividends and unit trust distributions			
Credit for TFN amounts withheld from payments from closely held trusts			
Share of credit for tax paid by trustee			
Share of credit for amounts withheld from foreign resident withholding (excluding capital gains)			
Share of National rental affordability scheme tax offset			

Correct! And from using the auto-transfer function.

WORKSHEET

Name	Credit / Offset	PP Amount	NPP amount
Distributed from [REDACTED]	\$30,000		\$86,464.00

18 CAPITAL GAINS

Did you have a capital gains tax event during the year?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> G	Yes
Have you applied an exemption or roll over?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> M	No
Net capital gain	<input checked="" type="radio"/> A	\$45,536.00
Total current year capital gains	<input checked="" type="radio"/> H	\$91,072.00

Manually entered in usual manner. CGT schedule may be required.



19 FOREIGN ENTITIES

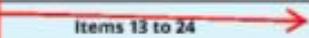
Did you have either a direct or indirect interest in a controlled foreign company CFC?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> I	No
Have you ever, either directly or indirectly, caused the transfer of property—including money—or services to a non-resident trust estate?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> W	No

20 FOREIGN SOURCE INCOME AND FOREIGN ASSETS OR PROPERTY

During the year did you own, or have an interest in, assets located outside Australia which had a total value of AUD\$50,000 or more?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> P	No
---	------------------------------------	----

TOTAL SUPPLEMENT INCOME	Items 13 to 24	\$132,000.00
-------------------------	----------------	--------------

Totals to \$132,000 - correct! (Beneficiary may have other income; have only shown the trust distribution to illustrate)



Deductions

TOTAL SUPPLEMENT DEDUCTIONS	Items D11 to D15	
-----------------------------	------------------	--

Tax offsets

TOTAL SUPPLEMENT TAX OFFSETS	Items T3, T4, T6, T7, T8, T9, T10 and T11	
------------------------------	---	--

JobKeeper

- Assessable income of the business
- Trust income? Probably, yes
- Which pot?
- Deal with like any other income

Cash flow boost

- Not assessable income
 - But might be on extraction from entity. Eg:
 - Unfranked dividend – company
 - CGT event E4 capital gain – unit trust
- Trust income?
 - Lumpy, received as little as two times
 - Maybe not
 - Capital?
- Which pot?

Cash flow boost

- Ideally, appoint to individual
- Undesirable to end up in corporate beneficiary UPE
- On basis trustee has requisite powers, suggested action:
 - Resolve CFB excluded from trust income (just to be certain)
 - Appoint trust capital represented by CFB to individual beneficiary(ies)
 - Deal with trust income in ordinary course

Appoint CG to non-resident

Greensill v FCT [2020]

- Resident trust derived CG - \$58 million
 - Non-TAP asset
 - CG appointed to **non-resident beneficiary**
- s855-10 did not apply
 - CG assessed under Subdiv 115-C
- Probably will be appealed to FFC

- *Note – if non-res beneficiary had personally owned the non-TAP asset, s855-10 would apply. CG would be disregarded*

Conclusion

- Check the trust deed
- Specific entitlement for FDs and CGs
- Document in resolution any use of trustee's power to modify trust income
 - Incl that CFB excluded from trust income
- Document calculation for rateable reduction
- Confidence in outcomes
 - Beneficiary entitlements
 - Tax outcomes

Important Disclaimer

The material contained in this presentation is in the nature of general comment only, and neither purports, nor is intended, to be advice on any particular matter. Readers should not act or rely upon any matter or information contained in or implied by this presentation without taking appropriate professional advice which relates specifically to their particular circumstances. The publishers, authors, consultants, editors and presenters expressly disclaim all and any liability to any person who acts or fails to act as a consequence of reliance upon the whole or any part of this presentation.

Thank you

If you would like to discuss anything further,
please do not hesitate to contact us.