

MINIMISE YOUR BUSINESS TAX

2026 TAX PLANNING GUIDE

Practical year-end strategies to help business owners reduce tax and plan ahead before 30 June.

By **Green Wave Accountants**

Many business owners only discover their tax position after it is too late to do anything about it

Effective tax planning helps business owners understand their expected tax position before 30 June and identify opportunities to ensure they are paying the **right amount of tax and not a dollar more than necessary**.

The tax saved through proactive planning could allow you to:

- ✓ Reduce your home loan
- ✓ Top up your superannuation
- ✓ Invest in your business
- ✓ Save for a holiday
- ✓ Fund your children's education
- ✓ Build long-term wealth

At Green Wave Accountants, we work with business owners throughout the year to help them understand their numbers, plan ahead and ensure they are paying the right amount of tax.

This guide outlines some of the common strategies available to **Australian business owners before the 30 JUNE 2026 deadline**.



WHO THIS GUIDE IS FOR

This guide is designed for **business owners and investors who want to review their tax position before the end of the financial year and identify opportunities to improve their tax outcome**.

WHY TAX PLANNING MATTERS

Many business owners only discover their tax position **after the financial year has ended**, when it is too late to take action.

Reviewing your position before 30 June allows you to:

- reduce tax where appropriate
- avoid unexpected tax bills
- improve cash flow planning
- make informed financial decisions

IS YOUR BUSINESS A “SMALL BUSINESS ENTITY”?

Many Australian businesses may qualify as a **Small Business Entity**.

Generally, businesses with **aggregated turnover under \$10 million** may qualify for a range of tax concessions.

However, eligibility thresholds can vary depending on the specific concession.

Businesses that qualify may access concessions such as:

- simplified depreciation rules
- prepayment deductions
- trading stock concessions

If you are unsure whether your business qualifies, please speak with us.

COMPANY TAX RATES

The company tax rate for **base rate entities** remains **25%**.

To qualify, a company must:

- have turnover below \$50 million
- derive no more than 80% of income from passive
- sources such as interest, dividends or rent.

Where appropriate, business owners operating through **family trust structures** may distribute income to a **bucket company**, which may cap tax at the company tax rate.

This strategy should be implemented carefully and discussed with your accountant before being adopted.



SUPERANNUATION CONTRIBUTIONS

Superannuation remains one of the most effective tax planning strategies available.

The concessional super contribution cap is currently **\$30,000 per individual per year**, subject to eligibility and ATO rules.

Employer super contributions count towards this cap.

IMPORTANT:

To claim a deduction in the **2026 financial year**, contributions must be **received by the super fund before 30 June 2026**.

Allow sufficient time for clearing house processing.

INSTANT ASSET WRITE-OFF

Eligible small businesses may be able to access the **\$20,000 instant asset write-off** for assets first used or installed ready for use by **30 June 2026**, subject to the relevant eligibility rules and thresholds.

This may apply to assets such as:

- tools and equipment
- computers and technology
- office furniture
- business vehicles

Eligibility rules and thresholds can change, so we recommend contacting us before making any significant purchase to confirm the correct tax treatment.

BRING FORWARD DEDUCTIBLE EXPENSES

In some situations, bringing forward deductible expenses before 30 June can reduce taxable income.

Examples include:

- interest and insurance
- inventory and equipment
- subscriptions and software
- repairs and maintenance

Timing these expenses appropriately may improve your tax position.

DEFER INCOME (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

Depending on your accounting method and circumstances, it may be possible to defer issuing invoices or receiving income until after 30 June.

This may defer tax to the following financial year.

This strategy should always be considered carefully alongside your business cashflow planning.

PAY EMPLOYEE SUPERANNUATION BEFORE YEAR END

To claim a tax deduction for employee super contributions in the **2026 financial year**, payments must be **received by the super fund before 30 June 2026**.

If using a clearing house, allow sufficient time for processing.

DIVISION 7A LOANS

If you have borrowed funds from your company in previous years, ensure that **minimum principal and interest repayments** are made before **30 June 2026**.

Failure to comply may result in the loan being treated as an **unfranked dividend**, potentially creating additional tax.

TRUST DISTRIBUTION PLANNING

If you operate through a **family trust**, trustee resolutions must be prepared and signed **before 30 June 2026**.

Tax planning can help ensure income is distributed across the family group in a tax-effective way.

Recent ATO guidance has increased scrutiny on trust distributions, making proactive planning particularly important.

REVIEW DEBTORS & WRITE OFF BAD DEBTS

Review your debtor ledger and identify any amounts that are unlikely to be recovered.

Bad debts must be **written off before 30 June** to claim a deduction. Ensure appropriate documentation is retained.

STOCKTAKE & WORK IN PROGRESS

If applicable, prepare a detailed **stocktake and/or work-in-progress listing** as at **30 June 2026**.

Review inventory for obsolete or slow-moving items that may need to be written down.

MOTOR VEHICLE LOGBOOKS

If claiming vehicle expenses using the **logbook method**, ensure your logbook:

covers at least **12 consecutive weeks**
is accurate and complete

Record your odometer reading as at **30 June 2026** and retain receipts for expenses.

COMMON TAX PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES WE IDENTIFY

Each year we identify tax planning opportunities for our clients such as:

- additional deductible super contributions
- bringing forward business expenses
- declaring & paying dividends
- deferring income where appropriate
- distributing income across family members
- reviewing trust distribution strategies
- managing Division 7A loans
- purchasing business assets before year end
- writing off obsolete stock or bad debts

For many business owners, these strategies can **reduce tax by several thousand dollars**, while also improving cashflow and financial planning.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE:

TAX PLANNING IN ACTION

A business owner completed tax planning in May after reviewing their financial results.

Through the planning process we identified opportunities including:

- additional super contributions
- bringing forward deductible business expenses
- adjusting trust distributions across the family group

These strategies reduced the client's expected tax payable by **approximately \$8,400**.

Every situation is different, but this example highlights the value of reviewing your tax position **before the end of the financial year**.

QUICK YEAR-END TAX CHECKLIST

Before 30 June, consider whether you have:

- ✓ reviewed your expected taxable income
- ✓ checked your super contribution strategy
- ✓ reviewed trust distributions
- ✓ checked Division 7A loan repayments
- ✓ considered asset purchases or expense timing
- ✓ written off bad debts
- ✓ completed stocktake or WIP review
- ✓ declare & pay dividends

OUR TAX PLANNING TIMELINE

To maximise available opportunities, tax planning typically follows this timeline:



Because some strategies take time to implement, we recommend booking tax planning **before 31 May**.

If you are unsure about any of the above, a **tax planning review can help identify the best approach for your situation**.

PLAN AHEAD TO REDUCE YOUR TAX

The strategies in this guide are general in nature.

The most effective tax outcomes occur when we review your financial results and **forecast your tax position before year end**.

Green Wave Accountants can assist with a **2026 Tax Planning Review**, where we will:

- estimate your expected taxable income
- forecast your tax payable
- identify tax reduction opportunities
- develop an action plan before 30 June

If you would like assistance reviewing your tax position this year, we recommend contacting us **before 31 May 2026 so we have sufficient time to identify and implement appropriate strategies before 30 June**.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This guide contains general information only and does not take into account your individual circumstances. Information is current as at **15 April 2026** and may change due to updates in tax legislation or ATO guidance.

You should seek professional advice from Green Wave Accountants before implementing any strategy discussed in this document.

If you would like help reviewing your position before 30 June, **please contact Green Wave Accountants to arrange a tax planning review**.



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