

Interim Authorisation AA1000664

Report for the period 15 March 2024 to 15 April 2024

1 Background

The ABA refers to its application for authorisation of 27 March 2024 (AA1000654) (the **Application**).

This report is provided to the ACCC in satisfaction of Condition 2 in the ACCC's decision to grant interim authorisation in relation to the Application, subject to conditions (the **Interim Authorisation**). This report covers the period from 15 March 2024 to 15 April 2024 (the **Relevant Period**).

2 Summary of Report

During the Relevant Period, a number of meetings were held between two or more of the Australian Banking Association (**ABA**), its Member Banks,¹ the Reserve Bank of Australia (**RBA**), retailers, supermarkets and other businesses who distribute cash, Australian Payments Network (**AusPayNet**), and Commonwealth Treasury (together, the **Authorised Parties**) for the purpose of discussing business continuity measures in the event of, or in reasonable anticipation of, a disruption to the supply of cash (**Business Continuity Planning (BCP)**).

There has not been any change to the membership of the RBA Cash Sustainability Working Group or the RBA BCP Working Group in the Relevant Period.

In respect of material activities, discussions, developments and/or decisions, over the Relevant Period, the Authorised Parties held meetings to discuss the following topics:

- bank note and cash access for retailers in the event of a disruption or suspension in Armaguard's CIT services;
- governance structure in respect of BCP and the RBA Cash Sustainability Working Group; and
- key focus areas for BCP such as transport, communications and measures to ensure access cash in the event of a disruption or suspension in Armaguard's CIT services.

Further detail set out in Confidential Schedule 2.

Discussions are ongoing to further explore these matters.

3 Confidentiality

The ABA regards parts of this report (Schedules 2 and 3 in their entirety) as confidential and requests that those parts not be disclosed to any third party, or displayed on the ACCC's public register without the prior written consent of the ABA. This request is subject to the ACCC's standard terms as to confidentiality set out below:

- there is no restriction on the internal use, including future use, that the ACCC may make of this report, consistent with its statutory functions;
- confidential documents may be disclosed to the ACCC's external advisors and consultants on the condition that each such advisor or consultant will be informed of the obligation to treat the documents as confidential; and

¹ A list of current ABA Member Banks is set out in Schedule 1.

- the ACCC may disclose confidential documents to third parties (in addition to its external advisors and consultants) if compelled by law or in accordance with section 155AAA of the CCA.

Yours sincerely,



Christopher Taylor

Chief of Policy

Schedule 1 – Current ABA Member Banks

- AMP Bank Limited
- Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited
- Arab Bank Australia Limited
- Bank Australia
- Bank of China
- Bank of Queensland Limited
- Bank of Sydney
- Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited
- Citigroup Pty Ltd
- Commonwealth Bank of Australia
- HSBC Bank Australia Limited
- ING Bank (Australia) Limited
- J.P. Morgan Australia and New Zealand
- Macquarie Bank Limited
- MUFG Bank Limited
- MyState Bank
- National Australia Bank Limited
- Rabobank Australia Limited
- Suncorp Bank
- Westpac Banking Corporation