



Our ref: AA1000645  
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3 August 2023

Dear Interested party

### **Australian Banking Association Ltd – application for authorisation AA1000645 – Interim authorisation decision**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) has granted interim authorisation with conditions in respect of the application for authorisation AA1000645, lodged by the Australian Banking Association (ABA) on 10 July 2023.

In summary, interim authorisation is granted to enable ABA Members to engage in discussions and exchange information solely for the purpose of developing a banking industry standard in relation to the prevention of, disruption to, and response to, scams that will or may affect individual and small business customers (**Industry Standard**) and reach in principle agreement on the form and content of the Industry Standard, while the ACCC considers the substantive application. The ACCC has granted interim authorisation with reporting and transparency conditions to ensure we are informed of the progress of their discussions, including consultation with stakeholders, and to manage the risk of ABA Members coordinating on anything beyond scam prevention and customer redress.

Interim authorisation protects the arrangements for which authorisation is sought from legal action under the relevant provisions of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth) while the ACCC considers and evaluates the merits of the substantive application.

#### **Next steps**

The ACCC will continue to assess the substantive application for authorisation.

The ACCC is still inviting submissions on the application. In making your submission, please provide information, evidence and views about the likely public benefits, effects on competition and any other public detriment that you consider will result from the conduct.

If you intend to provide a submission, please do so by **4 August 2023**. Submissions should be lodged via the web form accessible on the public register page for this matter, which can be found on the [ACCC's public register](#).

Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Elizabeth Batten via the details at the end of this letter.

Your submission **will** be placed on the ACCC's [authorisations public register on the internet](#) unless you have made a request (with reasons) for us to exclude part or all of the submission from the public register (see [Guidelines for Excluding Information from the Public Register for more information on how to make a request and how we assess requests](#)).

## Timetable

The ACCC will progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An indicative timetable is set out below for your information, and an up to date version (including any changes) will be posted on the public register.

<b>Indicative date</b>	<b>Stage in assessment process</b>
<b>10 July 2023</b>	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
<b>19 July 2023</b>	Public consultation process begins.
<b>25 July 2023</b>	Closing date for submissions on interim authorisation.
<b>3 August 2023</b>	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation.
<b>4 August 2023</b>	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
<b>August 2023</b>	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
<b>September 2023</b>	Draft determination.
<b>October 2023</b>	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
<b>November 2023</b>	Final determination.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Batten on 02 6243 1359 or [exemptions@acc.gov.au](mailto:exemptions@acc.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Tony Hilton  
Director  
Competition Exemptions