



MEDIA RELEASE

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Australian Payments Council appoints Mark Birrell as Chairman

The Australian Payments Council, the strategic coordination body for the Australian payments industry, today announced the appointment of [Mark Birrell](#) as independent non-executive Chairman.

Mr Birrell is an experienced company director with credentials spanning the private and public sectors. He is currently the Chairman of Infrastructure Australia, Regis Healthcare Limited, the Port of Melbourne Corporation and PostSuper Pty Ltd.

Previous Directorships have included Chairman of VicHealth, founding Chairman of Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, Deputy Chairman of the Australian Postal Corporation and Chairman of Evans & Peck Limited. He was a Cabinet Minister and Government Leader in the Victorian Upper House from 1992 to 1999.

"We are delighted to have secured a chair of the calibre of Mark, at this important time for the Council, and look forward to working with him," said Mr Chris Hamilton, CEO of the Australian Payments Clearing Association (APCA), who is stepping down as interim Chairman of the Payments Council.

The Payments Council was established in August 2014 with the support of the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) and APCA following close consultation with payments industry stakeholders. Its role is to coordinate industry efforts to drive the strategic agenda for the Australian payments system working closely with the RBA, and engaging directly with the RBA's Payments System Board.

Mr Birrell said that the Payments Council highlights the importance of collaboration between regulators and industry to achieve system and infrastructure improvements.

"I am very pleased to be joining the Council and helping to shape the future of our payments system. It's a time of change, as industry participants work together on improving the payments system through major projects like the New Payments Platform," said Mr Birrell.

The Payments Council is currently consulting on the development of the [Australian Payments Plan](#). The Plan will establish a roadmap for industry collaboration to improve the Australian payments system over the next 10 years. Interested parties are invited to respond to the Consultation Paper by 3 July 2015.

"The consultation provides a valuable opportunity to help shape the future of Australian payments. I would strongly encourage industry and community stakeholders to get involved to help create the payments system we need," said Mr Birrell.

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