



## Australian Payments Plan Launch and Payments Community Update

17 December 2015

The Australian Payments Council (“the Council”) launched the Australian Payments Plan (“the Plan”) on 4 December 2015 in Sydney, immediately before the meeting of the Payments Community. The Plan provides strategic direction for Australian payments.

The Council has identified three areas of the payments system that require collaborative action, based on recurrent themes that arose during the consultation process: security and trust, managing Australia’s payments mix and enabling the future.

The Council will oversee the following new initiatives that will serve to enhance the standing of Australia’s payment system in accordance with the desirable characteristics. These are grouped under each of the themes and include:

### *Security and trust*

- Develop Principles for Digital Identity and Data Management and work with the Government in the development of a national digital identity framework
- Lead work on Cybersecurity Strategies

### *Managing Australia’s payments mix*

- Modernise payments: The Transition Away from Cheques
- Develop Industry Strategy for a ‘Less Cash’ Society
- Review the Future of Existing Payment Systems

### *Enabling the future*

- Enable Technology Innovation

The Plan is available on the Australian Payments Council website <http://australianpaymentscouncil.com.au/australian-payments-plan/>

During the launch event, there were a number of presentations and a panel session.

### **Mr Mark Birrell, Chairman, Australian Payments Council**

Mr Birrell officially launched the Plan. In doing so, he noted how payments had been changing and how it was important for the payments community to act strategically so that the system could meet the future needs of the economy. He recognised the engagement and consultation that had gone into developing the Plan and thanked the payments community and stakeholders for their contributions and involvement.



### **Dr Malcolm Edey, Assistant Governor (Financial System), RBA**

Dr Edey provided the RBA response to the launch of the Plan. On behalf of the Payments System Board, he welcomed the launch of the Plan as a significant milestone for payments in Australia. He identified the challenge of collaboration between competitors and was pleased with the way the industry had responded in developing the Plan. He made special mention of the role of consultation in developing the Plan. He concluded by observing that the Plan represented the start of a process and that the Payments System Board looked forward to on-going engagement with the Council on progress of the Plan.

### **Ms Victoria Richardson, General Manager, Payments Direction, APCA**

Ms Richardson presented the Plan, outlining the desirable characteristics of the payments system as outlined in the Plan; the three overlapping stages of evolution as payments become more digital, integrated and embedded; the areas for industry collaboration and the supporting initiatives; and the reporting and review framework for the Plan. Her presentation is available [here](#).

### **Australian Payments Plan Panel**

Mr Nigel Dobson (General Manager, Group Payments Management, ANZ)

Mr Adrian Lovney (General Manager, Product & Service, Cuscal)

Mr Bruce Mansfield (Managing Director, eftpos Payments)

Ms Dhun Karai (Head of Group Financial Services, Woolworths)

Dr Brad Pragnell (Executive Manager, Payments Policy, APCA) – Panel Chair

Following the presentation by Ms Richardson, a panel discussed aspects of the Plan, including the changing expectations of users for a more seamless experience; the role of the Plan in guiding the future evolution of the legacy systems; how data would increasingly be the source of value; the importance of involving a wide range of stakeholders in setting the strategic direction for industry; and the importance of reaching out to new entrants and understanding the impact of new technologies.

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Following the Plan Launch, the meeting reconvened as the Payments Community.

### **Mr Mark Birrell, Chairman, Australian Payments Council**

Mr Birrell reported on the activities of the Australian Payments Council during 2015. He noted that the Council had met with the Payments System Board in August 2015 and that the Council had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Board. He also reported that the Council has commissioned work on digital identity and cyber security and that these topics were now reflected within the Plan.

### **Mr Paul Lahiff, Chairman, NPP Australia Limited**

Mr Lahiff provided an update on the New Payments Platform (NPP). He noted that the NPP remained on track to be operational in the second half of 2017. He also reported that BPAY had been selected as the provider of the Initial Convenience Service, which is the first of the overlay services using the NPP. His presentation is available [here](#).

### **Ms Cindy Nicholson, Associate Director, Financial Services Industry, Asia Pacific, SingTel Optus**

Ms Nicholson presented on digital disruption, identity and privacy. She noted the importance of identity services and the high value that users placed on security and privacy. She outlined new identity services being provided in the marketplace and the emerging role of geo-location and biometrics in providing additional factors of authentication. Her presentation is available [here](#).

### **Digital Identity Panel**

Mr Cade Turland (Managing Director, Physisecure)

Mr Lance Blockley (Managing Director, RFi Consulting)

Ms Cindy Nicholson (Associate Director, Financial Services Industry, Asia Pacific, SingTel Optus)

Ms Victoria Richardson (General Manager, Payments Direction, APCA)

Dr David Lacey (Managing Director, iDcare) – Panel Chair

Following the presentation by Ms Nicholson, a panel discussed digital identity. Issues raised included the potential for financial services to be disintermediated by technology players; the importance of ensuring privacy and user consent over use of data; building on the experience of the payments community in ensuring security while also providing a convenient experience; and the importance of working with Government in the development of a digital identity ecosystem.

The Payments Community will meet again in the first half of 2016.