Australian Banking Association

03 March 2021

Secretary
Senate Economics Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

Treasury Laws Amendment (2021 Measures No.1) Bill 2021

The Australian Banking Association (**ABA**) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Committee's review of the Treasury Laws Amendment (2021 Measures No. 1) Bill 2021 (**TLA Bill**).

The ABA welcomed the Federal Government's prompt actions in early 2020 to amend sections 127 and 129 of the *Corporations Act 2001* to ensure electronic execution of essential business transactions could occur during the COVID-19 pandemic. These temporary reforms enabled Australian businesses to continue to provide services to customers and minimise disruption in the economy during the pandemic.

The ABA also welcomed the Government's consultation in October 2020 to make the reforms enabling the electronic execution of documents by companies permanent for the benefit and convenience of customers and to improve efficiencies for Australian businesses. However, the initial temporary electronic execution relief will lapse on 21 March 2021, before any legislation to make these reforms permanent can be duly considered by Parliament.

This TLA Bill includes provisions to extend the temporary electronic execution relief to 16 September 2021. This extension would give the Government an opportunity to introduce legislation to Parliament to make electronic execution reforms permanent. The ABA considers it crucial for the temporary relief to be extended to 16 September 2021, or later, in the form as proposed under the TLA Bill. This would avoid the disruption and costs that will ensue if businesses and consumers were to lose the benefit of the temporary reforms, even if only for a limited time before the Parliament has an opportunity to consider legislation that can make the benefits of these electronic execution reforms permanent.

Thank you for considering this matter. If you have any questions please contact Director, Government Relations, Fiona Landis at 0410 142 229 or Fiona.landis@ausbanking.org.au

Yours sincerely,

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