



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 19 March 2021

FINTECH SELECT COMMITTEE EXTENSION

The Financial Services Council (FSC) has welcomed the Parliament’s decision to expand the scope and length of the Fintech Select Committee to focus on initiatives to help Australia become a technology and finance centre.

The FSC is particularly pleased to see the Committee focus on options to replace the Offshore Banking Unit (OBU) regime, which the Government has recently announced will shortly come to an end.

Acting FSC CEO Blake Briggs said: “The OBU regime encourages globally-mobile financial services companies to be located in Australia and its imminent closure could cause operations to be taken offshore. It is critical the Government use the Fintech Select Committee to finalise measures that will ensure these activities remain in Australia.”

“The FSC has long urged the Federal Government to remove the barriers to the funds management sector becoming more globally competitive. The recent report of the Australia as a Financial & Technology Centre Advisory Report (the Low Report) set a roadmap for the reforms that are required to achieve the goal of promoting growth.

“The FSC recommends the Committee prioritise the implementation of Corporate Collective Investment Vehicle (CCIV) with competitive tax settings; amending the Investment Manger Regime rules; and removing the withholding tax applying to funds issued under the Asia Region Funds Passport program,” Mr Briggs added.

The FSC looks forward to consulting with Government and the Fintech Select Committee to ensure Australia remains an attractive destination for global financial services companies.

- Ends

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About the Financial Services Council

The Financial Services Council (FSC) has over 100 members representing Australia’s retail and wholesale funds management businesses, superannuation funds, life insurers, financial advisory networks and licensed trustee companies. The industry is responsible for investing almost \$3 trillion on behalf of more than 15.6 million Australians. The pool of funds under management is larger than Australia’s GDP and the capitalisation of the Australian Securities Exchange and is the fourth largest pool of managed funds in the world.