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MEDIA RELEASE – FSC applauds opening of fintech sandbox

The Financial Services Council is pleased ASIC has today opened the regulatory sandbox for financial technology companies.

With the release of class waivers to allow eligible fintechs to test certain services without holding an Australian financial services or credit licence, ASIC has created an environment for innovative companies to bring their ideas to life.

The FSC fully supports the Government's innovation agenda and is pleased that ASIC will accept applications for sandbox participation from incumbent businesses seeking to innovate in new areas, although we would like to see this move to a more formal structure over time.

FSC CEO Sally Loane said: "Financial services are heavily regulated to ensure appropriate consumer protection but it is essential that regulatory barriers do not hamper product and service innovation by start-ups and incumbent businesses alike.

"We now look forward to the Government progressing its FSI commitments on technology neutral regulation for the financial sector and facilitating rationalisation of life insurance and managed investment scheme legacy products."

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For further information please contact FSC Media Manager Mark Smith on 0434 566 764 or msmith@fsc.org.au.

About the Financial Services Council
The Financial Services Council represents Australia's retail and wholesale funds management businesses, superannuation funds, life insurers, financial advisory networks and licensed trustee companies. The Council has over 100 members who are responsible for investing more than $2.7 trillion on behalf of 13 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 third largest pool of managed funds in the world. The Financial Services Council promotes best practice for the financial services industry by setting mandatory Standards for its members and providing Guidance Notes to assist in operational efficiency.