
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 8 October 2021 3:26 PM
To: State Development and Regional Industries Committee
Subject: Submission to inquiry: Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response — Permanency) Amendment Bill 2021

Categories: Submission

Dear Committee Secretary

I make this submission relating to the Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response — Permanency) Amendment Bill 2021 on behalf of the Australian Banking Association.

ABA strongly supports the provisions in Bill to make permanent reforms relating to document execution. The temporary reforms made by the Queensland parliament during the COVID-19 pandemic have been valuable and welcomed by industry, and ABA strongly supports making the reforms permanent. The reforms have helped to reduce the time, financial and opportunity costs that result from the need to sign and witness deeds on paper, including for customers in rural and remote areas. The reforms also give banks more flexibility to use technology to provide services to customers in a way that reflects the customers' needs and preferences. By contrast, if the temporary reforms are not made permanent and are allowed to lapse, it would require businesses to unwind changes that have been enabled under the temporary reforms. Industry's experience in other jurisdictions is that the lapsing of temporary reforms relating to electronic execution of documents can create uncertainty and stress, add unexpected costs and potentially delay important transactions for customers.

ABA has also had the benefit of reviewing the submission from KWM and Allens Linklaters, and would welcome the Committee's consideration of the proposed changes set out in their submission.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Kind regards
Rhonda

Rhonda Luo
[Policy Director](#)



PO Box H218, Australia Square NSW 1215

M: [REDACTED] W: ausbanking.org.au



Australian Banking Association Limited. ABN 60 117 262 978.



The ABA acknowledges that our office sits on the traditional land of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation and that our member banks and their services are located across many traditional lands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We pay our respect to all first nation peoples and thank them for their custodianship of our country over thousands of years.