

Ministerial Forum: National eConveyancing

On 11 June 2024, relevant Ministers and their representatives met to review the progress of the eConveyancing reforms, to support a sustainable, competitive market structure for eConveyancing.

Financial services aspects of the Interoperability Program are beyond the remit of State and Territories to resolve

The State and Territory Ministers acknowledged the considerable work ARNECC has undertaken through its Interoperability Program and the contribution of ELNOs and industry stakeholders. The Ministers noted the benefits that competition could bring, and the need for industry and consumer confidence in the system.

State and Territory Ministers also noted recent issues that have been raised by the banking industry in relation to the Interoperability Program, and that some of these are beyond the remit of States and Territories to address effectively. While reiterating their support for competition in the marketplace, State and Territory Ministers acknowledged the progress of the Program faces significant challenges without these issues being resolved by the relevant parties. The Ministers will raise these issues with Commonwealth Government and regulators.

Other eConveyancing Reforms

All Ministers noted the continuing work towards a national enforcement regime in relation to eConveyancing. Ministers noted that following stakeholder feedback, ARNECC continues to develop nationally-consistent enforcement legislation in relation to subscribers and ELNOs, with the aim to enshrine this in legislation in 2025.

Ministers also noted progress of the eConveyancing Payments Industry Code among banks and ELNOs, led by the Australian Payments Network.

All Ministers noted the NSW Productivity Commission market study on eConveyancing and the recommendations for working more closely with the Commonwealth. Ministers welcomed further discussions in this regard.

Ministers thanked industry for their ongoing contribution of time, expertise and resources to eConveyancing. Ministers reiterated the criticality of ongoing stakeholder engagement and welcomed further discussions across Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies.

State and Territory Ministers in attendance or represented at the Forum

- The Hon. Shane Rattenbury MLA, Australian Capital Territory Attorney-General; Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction; Minister for Gaming and Minister for Consumer Affairs
- The Hon. Jihad Dib MP, New South Wales Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government; Minister for Emergency Services; Minister for Youth Justice
- The Hon. Chanston Paech MLA, Northern Territory Attorney-General and Minister for Justice; Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty; Minister for Local Government; Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
- The Hon. Scott Stewart MP, Queensland Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals
- The Hon. Nick Champion MP, South Australia Minister for Housing and Urban Development; Minister for Housing Infrastructure; Minister for Planning
- The Hon. Nick Duigan, MLC, Tasmanian Minister for Energy and Renewables; Minister for Parks; Minister for Heritage; Minister for Small Business
- The Hon. Sonya Kilkenny MP, Victoria Minister for Planning; Minister for the Suburbs
- The Hon. John Carey MLA, Western Australia Minister for Planning; Minister for Lands; Minister for Housing; Minister for Homelessness

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