



Minister for Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development

2 0 AUG 2004

Mr John Veale Head of Payments Policy Department Reserve Bank of Australia GPO Box 3947 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Veale

I refer to your letter of 11 June 2004 regarding the designation of Australia's EFTPOS system and ATM system as "payment systems".

I note that "designation" has no immediate effect, but is a prerequisite to the determination of standards or the imposition of an access regime by the Reserve Bank to promote efficiency and competition in the Australian payments system.

In that sense, I support designation of these systems because it is a necessary prerequisite to the Reserve Bank providing industry standards that should ultimately benefit consumers.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to comment.

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Yours sincerely

Margaret Keech MP

Minister for Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development

Member for Albert