



RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA

# Payments: The Future?

Address to the Australian Payments Network Summit 2021

**Philip Lowe | Governor**

9 December 2021

# The direction of change

Declining use of cash and increasing use of  
electronic payments

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Greater use of digital wallets

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Growing involvement of 'big techs'

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Increasing specialisation and new business  
models

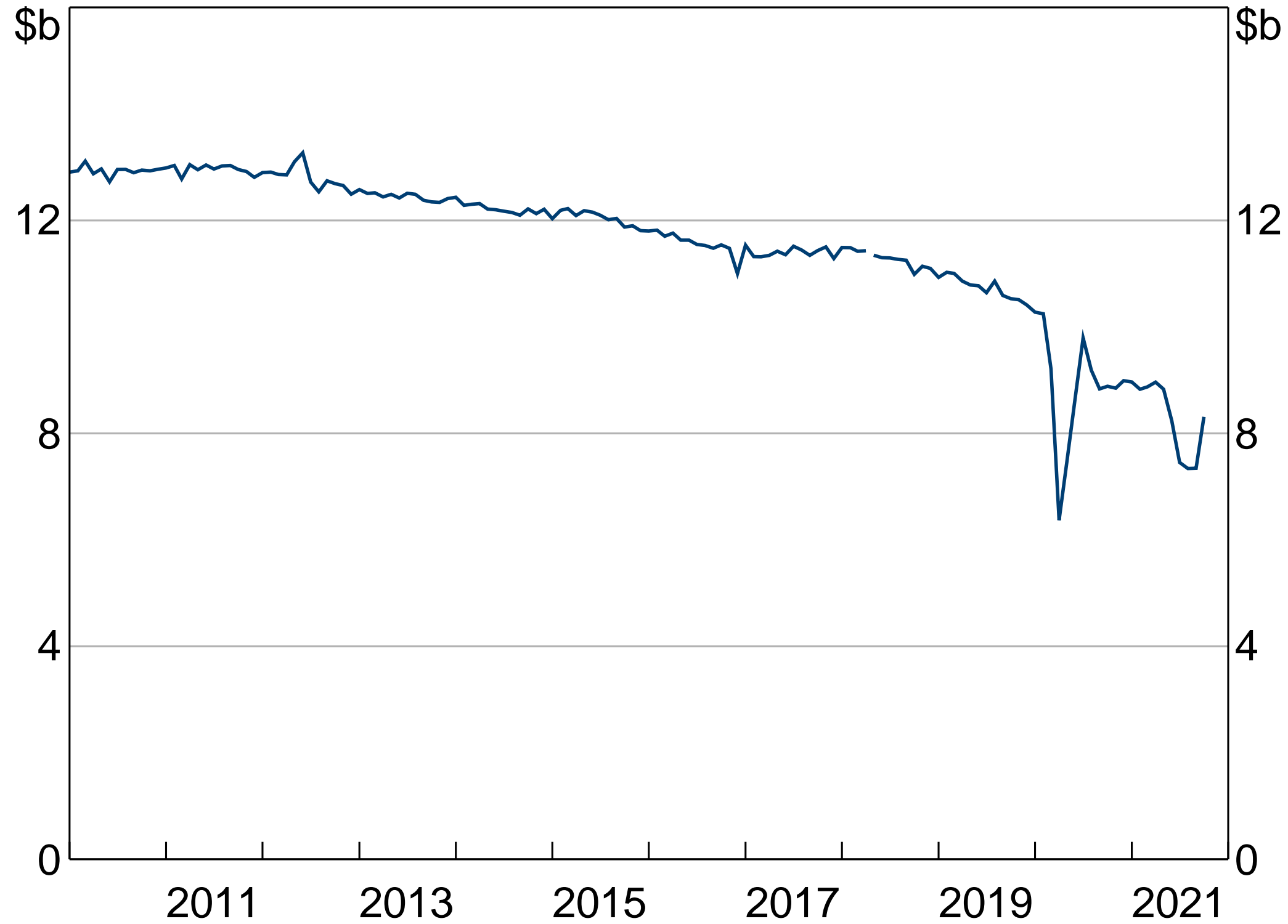
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Growing community interest in the security,  
reliability and cost of payments

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# Total Value of ATM Withdrawals

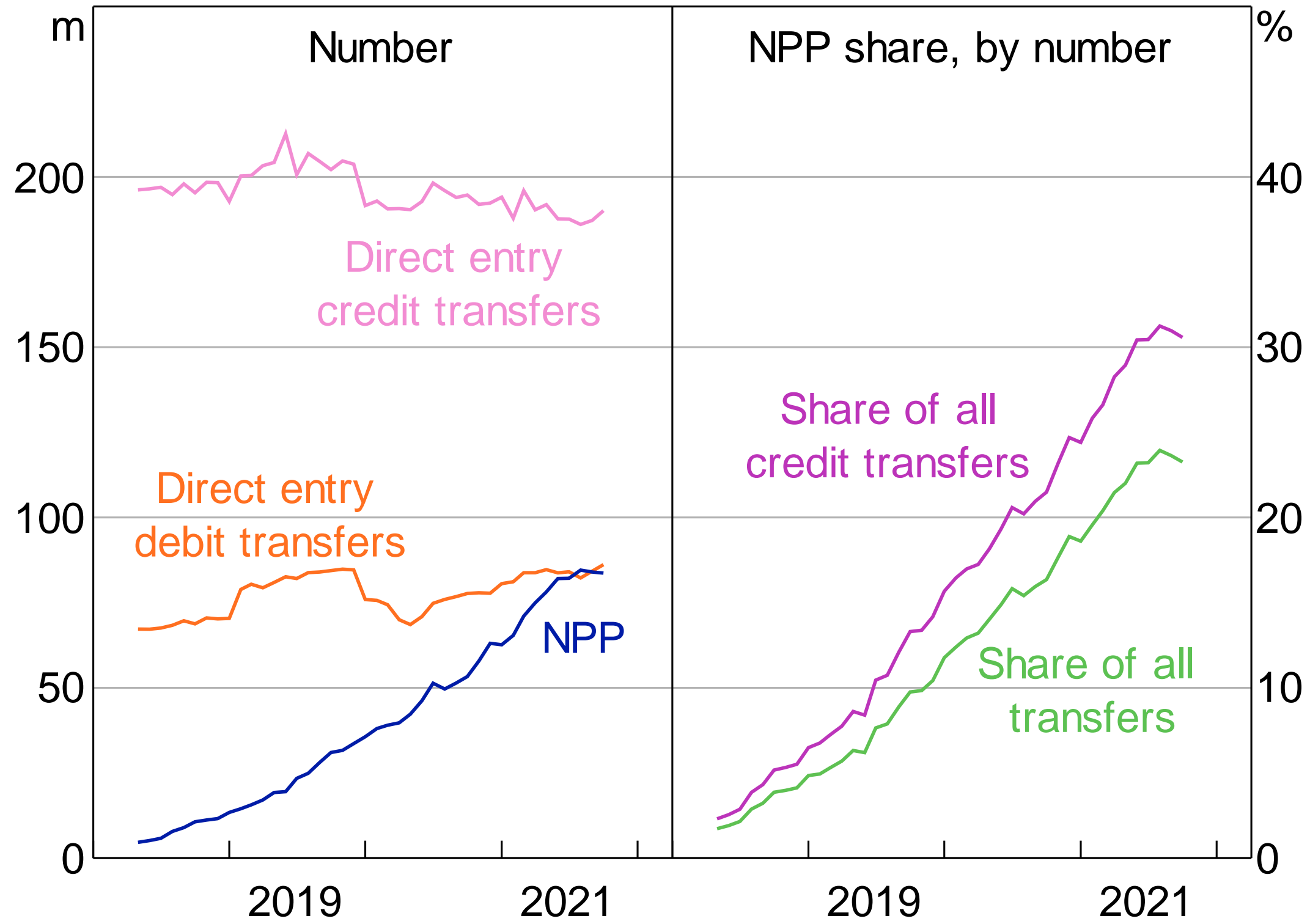
Monthly, seasonally adjusted



Source: RBA

# Account-to-Account Transfers

Monthly, seasonally adjusted



Source: RBA

An increasing share  
of electronic  
payments is being  
made through  
digital wallets





‘Big tech’ is increasingly interested in payments



# 'Fin techs' are driving innovation in Australia

Online payments



Point-of-sale acceptance technology



Cross-border retail payments



Buy now, pay later (BNPL) services



# Growing community interest in payments



Ensuring banknotes remain widely available



Keeping downward pressure on the cost of  
electronic payments



Competition issues from the increased  
involvement of 'big techs'



Ensuring electronic payments remain secure  
and reliable





# Some near-term priorities

Timely completion of the PayTo service

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Development of 'payment with document'  
functionality for the NPP

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Further progress is needed to deliver the  
benefits from open banking

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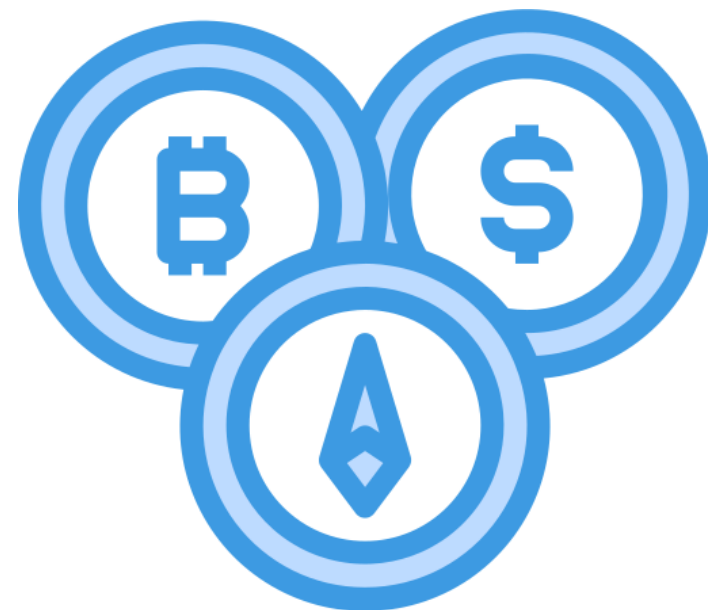
Roll-out and adoption of widely usable digital  
ID services

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Improvements in cross-border payments

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# Token-based payments – some possibilities



Retail central bank digital currency (CBDC)

Privately issued 'stablecoins'

Cryptocurrencies

Wholesale CBDC

The RBA  
welcomes the  
Government's  
response to three  
recent reports:

The Treasury Review of the Australian Payments System led by Scott Farrell

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The report of the Senate Select Committee on Australia as a Technology and Financial Centre

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The Parliamentary Joint Committee's report on Mobile Payment and Digital Wallet Financial Services

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