



**The Hon Tony Burke MP**  
Minister for Home Affairs  
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship  
Minister for Cyber Security  
Minister for the Arts  
Leader of the House

Ref No: MS26-000444

Mr Brendan Thomas  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre  
4 National Circuit  
BARTON ACT 2600

Dear Mr Thomas

I, the Hon Tony Burke MP, in my capacity as the Minister for Home Affairs and the responsible Minister for the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) under the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006* (AML/CTF Act), acknowledge that AUSTRAC continues to adjust its regulatory posture to align with whole-of-Government objectives as Australia's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML/CTF) regulator and financial intelligence unit (FIU). I expect that, in its delivery of regulatory activities, AUSTRAC continues to focus on managing risks to the integrity of the financial system with an awareness of the business realities of regulated sectors and the need for productivity, dynamism and growth.

AUSTRAC plays an integral role in safeguarding the Australian community and economy by deterring, detecting and disrupting money laundering, terrorism financing and other serious and organised crime, as well as building resilience in the financial system against criminal exploitation.

Under the AML/CTF Act, AUSTRAC's function is to assist its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in the performance of their functions, which are broadly to:

- Retain, compile, analyse, disseminate and facilitate access to AUSTRAC information in order to support domestic and international efforts to combat money laundering, terrorism financing and other serious crimes.

- Promote compliance with the AML/CTF regime and advise and assist reporting entities and their representatives in relation to AML/CTF obligations.
- Assist in the development of government policy or academic research.

The Government recognises and respects the independence of the CEO of AUSTRAC and their responsibility for the regulatory regime established under the AML/CTF Act. AUSTRAC's functions are critical to securing Australia's future, in a way that reflects Government's commitment to productivity-oriented regulatory reform. As guiding principles, I expect AUSTRAC to continue to exercise its functions and powers in good faith and to the best of its ability, and to ensure its regulatory settings and subsequent activities:

- Reduce unnecessary regulatory burden upon community, businesses and industry by ensuring regulatory controls reflect only what is necessary to achieve policy intent.
- Seek opportunities to remove duplication and streamline processes to improve efficiency and lift productivity, including through initiatives committed to as a part of AUSTRAC's collaboration with the Council of Financial Regulators and your engagement with the Treasury
- Incorporate relevant international regulations as set by the Financial Action Task Force and other key international regulators.

I ask that you continue to work closely with the Department of Finance and the Treasury on the implementation and reporting of any relevant regulatory reform proposals, both those led by AUSTRAC and cross-government contributions, particularly where legislative change and/or funding may be required.

The Regulatory Policy, Practice and Performance Framework sets out the six principles for regulation, namely targeted and risk based, integrated in existing systems, user-centred, evidence-based and data-driven, reflective of the digital era, and continuously improved and outcomes-focused. I trust that these will underpin AUSTRAC's regulatory posture, as it adapts to the priority focus on enabling productivity growth.

It is also my expectation that AUSTRAC has processes in place to measure performance and service standards of regulatory activities, including through publications such as the AUSTRAC Corporate Plan.

In the context of the guiding principles and objective outlined, I will work with AUSTRAC to contribute to the Government's regulatory objectives. Specifically, I expect AUSTRAC to:

- Support the Government's efforts to promote and protect the integrity and public confidence of the Australian financial system through enactment and implementation of controls and use of its powers to detect, deter and disrupt money laundering, terrorism financing and other serious crimes.

- Continue to work with the Department of Home Affairs to implement the Government's reforms to the AML/CTF Act, passed in November 2024, supplementary AML/CTF Rules tabled in August 2025 and any subsequent amendments and materials.
- Collaborate closely with law enforcement and national security partners, including through the Fintel Alliance, by sharing crucial data and financial intelligence information to disrupt crime and protect the community.
- Work with the Department to reinforce and promote the international standing of Australia's AML/CTF regulatory regime through the 2026-27 Financial Action Task Force Mutual Evaluation.
- Continue to enhance cyber maturity, intelligence capabilities and to use modern technologies to detect and address emerging threats.
- Continue to provide up-to-date, clear and accessible guidance and information to assist regulated entities with compliance.
- Continue its risk-based approach to regulating reporting entities' compliance with their AML/CTF obligations, and work with reporting entities to improve their management of money laundering, counter-terrorism financing and proliferation financing risks.
- Continue to meet the high standard of ethics expected in performing its functions as Australia's AML/CTF regulator and FIU, including operating in line with relevant legislative requirements and upholding the Australian Public Service Values and Code of Conduct.
- Work collaboratively with the Department to provide accurate and timely policy advice on significant issues relating to the work of AUSTRAC.
- Provide accurate and timely advice on new and emerging AML/CTF risks to the Australian economy and businesses, and the performance of AUSTRAC.

I look forward to working with AUSTRAC on the above regulatory reforms and future opportunities that seek to improve the way in which AUSTRAC delivers its regulatory responsibilities.

Yours sincerely



Tony Burke

4 / 3 / 2026