

# What to Watch

## Week of 26 January 2026

- Locally, Q4 CPI on Wed; NAB Business Survey (Tues). Monday is a public holiday.
- NZ data include filled jobs, trade data and ANZ business survey.
- Globally, key events are FOMC and BoC, both Wednesday. EZ Q4 GDP is Friday. Other global data is generally second tier, and tech earnings will be in focus.

This week's key **Australian** release is Wednesday's **Q4 CPI**, we see Q4 trimmed mean inflation at 0.9% qoq (3.3% yoy), which is above the RBA's November SoMP forecast. Consensus is 0.8%. Monday is a public holiday, the data flow picks up with Tuesday's NAB Business Survey. Q4 International trade prices and PPI are also released.

**In NZ**, economic data include **filled jobs** (Wed), merchandise trade (Thurs), and ANZ confidence surveys for businesses (Thurs) and consumers (Fri). There is a public holiday on Monday.

**In the US**, the **FOMC** is widely expected to leave policy unchanged at Wednesday's meeting. After 75bp of cuts late last year, Powell in December said policy is 'well positioned'. There are no new projections at this meeting. Further north, the **BoC** also meets Wednesday and is expected to hold at 2.25%.

The US data flow is mostly second tier. Durable goods are on Monday, Conference Board consumer confidence on Tuesday, trade balance and factory orders on Thursday, and PPI on Friday. **Corporate earnings** will also be in focus, with major **technology and energy names** reporting, including Meta, Microsoft, Tesla, Apple and Exxon Mobil.

**In Asia**, Japan's Tokyo CPI, jobless rate, industrial production, and retail sales are all due Friday, and the **BOJ December minutes** are Wednesday. In China, manufacturing and non-manufacturing PMIs arrive Saturday (31 Jan).

**Preliminary January inflation data in Germany and Spain** is released on Friday, ahead of **Eurozone HICP** on the following Monday. German inflation will be soft via one-off energy price declines. While January EZ inflation will be complicated by re-indexation/re-classification **the picture for EZ inflation in Q1 is benign** on a variety of factors and risks coming in below ECB forecasts. **The advanced reading of Q4 GDP on Friday** is expected to result in a decent 0.3% q/q, 1.3% y/y outturn.

There are no major UK data releases. The BoE and ECB enter their respective pre-rate meeting quiet periods.

## Contents

Week Ahead Calendar .....	2
Key Event Previews .....	3
Forecasts Tables.....	5
Month Ahead Calendar.....	6

## Key Data

	Latest	Next
GDP	2.1% yoy	4Q on 4 Mar
Unemployment	4.1%	Jan on 19 Feb
Trimmed Mean	3% yoy	4Q on 28 Jan
RBA	3.6%	3 Feb

## Key Markets

	% change		
	Latest	Week	YTD
<b>Rates</b>			
AU BBSY 3m	3.86	8.1	7.1
AU 3y swap	4.22	12.1	11.6
AU 3yr yield	4.26	15.1	12.2
AU 10yr yield	4.81	10.1	6.8
US 10yr yield	4.24	1.4	7.0
AU-US 10yr spread	57.2	8.7	-0.2
<b>Commodities</b>			
Iron ore	105	-1.4	-0.3
Coal (thermal)	109.6	1.1	1.9
Brent oil	64.6	0.7	6.1
Gold	4956.1	7.8	14.7
<b>FX</b>			
AUD/USD	0.6840	2.3	2.5
USD (DXY)	98.36	-1.0	0.0
AUD/NZD	1.2	-0.4	-0.1
<b>AUD crosses</b>			
AUD/JPY	108.47	2.7	3.7
AUD/CNY	4.7629	2.2	2.2
AUD/EUR	0.5824	1.1	2.5
AUD/GBP	0.5	1.4	2.3

Source: Bloomberg

## Week Ahead Calendar

Highlighted events are previewed below.

		Event	Period	Survey	NAB	Previous
Monday, 26 Jan	20:00	GE IFO Business Climate	Jan	88.2		87.6
	00:30	US Durable Goods Orders	Nov P	4.0%		5.3%
Tuesday, 27 Jan	11:30	AU NAB Business Confidence	Dec	--		1.1
	11:30	AU NAB Business Conditions	Dec	--		6.5
	02:00	US Conf. Board Consumer Confidence	Jan	91.00		89.10
Wednesday, 28 Jan	08:45	NZ Filled Jobs SA MoM	Dec	--		0.3%
	11:30	AU CPI YoY	Dec	3.6%	<b>3.7%</b>	3.4%
	11:30	AU CPI Trimmed Mean YoY	Dec	3.3%	<b>3.3%</b>	3.2%
	11:30	AU CPI QoQ	4Q	0.6%	<b>0.6%</b>	1.3%
	11:30	AU CPI YoY SA	4Q	3.6%	<b>3.6%</b>	3.2%
	11:30	AU CPI Trimmed Mean QoQ	4Q	0.9%	<b>0.9%</b>	1.0%
	11:30	AU CPI Trimmed Mean YoY	4Q	3.3%	<b>3.3%</b>	3.0%
	23:00	US MBA Mortgage Applications	23 Jan	--		14.1%
	01:45	CA Bank of Canada Rate Decision	28 Jan	2.25		2.25
	06:00	US FOMC Rate Decision (Upper Bound)	28 Jan	3.75		3.75
Thursday, 29 Jan	08:45	NZ Trade Balance NZD	Dec	--		-163.32
	11:00	NZ ANZ Business Confidence	Jan	--		73.6%
	19:30	SW Riksbank Policy Rate	29 Jan	1.8		1.8
	--	EC (29 Jan - 06 Feb) ECB's Pre-Rate Decision Quiet Period	--	--		--
	00:30	US Initial Jobless Claims	24 Jan	205.0		200.0
	00:30	US Trade Balance	Nov	-44.1		-29.4
	02:00	US Factory Orders	Nov	1.6%		-1.3%
	02:00	US Durable Goods Orders	Nov F	4.0%		5.3%
	02:00	US Wholesale Inventories MoM	Nov F	0.2%		0.2%
Friday, 30 Jan	10:30	JN Tokyo CPI Ex-Fresh Food YoY	Jan	2.2%		2.3%
	10:30	JN Jobless Rate	Dec	2.6%		2.6%
	10:50	JN Industrial Production MoM	Dec P	-0.4%		-2.7%
	17:30	FR GDP QoQ	4Q P	0.2%		0.5%
	19:55	GE Unemployment Change (000's)	Jan	3.00		3.00
	20:00	GE GDP SA QoQ	4Q P	0.2%		0.0%
	20:30	UK Mortgage Approvals	Dec	65.00		64.53
	21:00	EC GDP SA QoQ	4Q A	0.2%		0.3%
	--	UK (30 Jan - 06 Feb) Nationwide House PX MoM	Jan	0.3%		-0.4%
	00:00	GE CPI YoY	Jan P	1.9%		1.8%
	00:30	CA GDP MoM	Nov	0.1%		-0.3%
	00:30	US PPI Final Demand MoM	Dec	0.2		0.2
	05:30	US Fed's Musalem Speaks on Economy and Policy	--	--		--
Saturday, 31 Jan	12:30	CH Manufacturing PMI	Jan	50.20		50.10
	12:30	CH Non-manufacturing PMI	Jan	50.40		50.20
Upcoming Central Bank Interest Rate Announcements						Current
	US	Federal Reserve (Upper Bound)	28 Jan			3.75
	CA	BoC	28 Jan			2.25
	AU	RBA	3 Feb			3.60
	EZ	ECB	5 Feb			2.00
	UK	BoE	5 Feb			3.75
	NZ	RBNZ	18 Feb			2.25
	JN	BoJ	19 Mar			0.75

Sydney Time. Dates reflect 24 hours from 7am

## Key Event Previews

### Wednesday

#### AU CPI (Q4)

We see Q4 trimmed mean inflation at 0.9% qoq (3.3% yoy), above the RBA's November SoMP forecast. Consensus is 0.8% qoq. Housing pressures remain, market services inflation is a little cooler than Q3 but remains elevated, and durable goods prices strengthened compared to Q3. Our forecast anticipates strong December increases in travel and new car prices, with risks skewed to a 0.8% outcome if these don't materialise. Quarterly headline inflation is seen at 0.6% qoq (3.6% yoy). See CPI Preview [here](#).

For the December Monthly, we forecast headline at 3.7% and trimmed mean at 3.3%.

#### NZ Filled Jobs (December)

Filled jobs rose 0.3% mom in November, and BNZ are looking for another modest gain in December to be consistent with their forecast for a 0.3% qoq increase in employment in the Q4 Household Labour Survey.

Experimental weekly data from Stats NZ suggests a pick-up in employment beyond the usual seasonal pattern for the end of the calendar year. BNZ think there is a hint of downside risk to their 0.3% qoq pick for Q4 employment, given anecdotal evidence from the retail sector that the normal Christmas staff uplift did not occur.

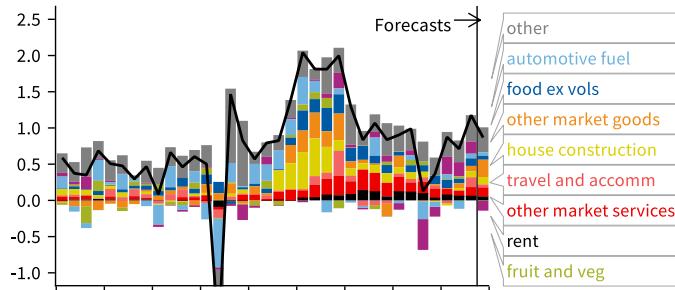
#### US FOMC Decision (6am Thursday Sydney time)

The FOMC is widely expected on hold after three consecutive cuts. In December, Powell described policy as "within a range of plausible estimates of neutral" and a number of FOMC officials have said policy is 'well positioned.' Inflation data looks to be tracking a little below the FOMCs December median projection, but unemployment rate low, activity growth strong. And fiscal settings more supportive through H1 2026. The Fed is likely to be on the sidelines for the next couple of meetings. Markets have a cumulative 8bp of cuts over the next three meetings, and 19bp priced for June.

With no new forecasts and policy well positioned, independence questions may dominate the press conference.

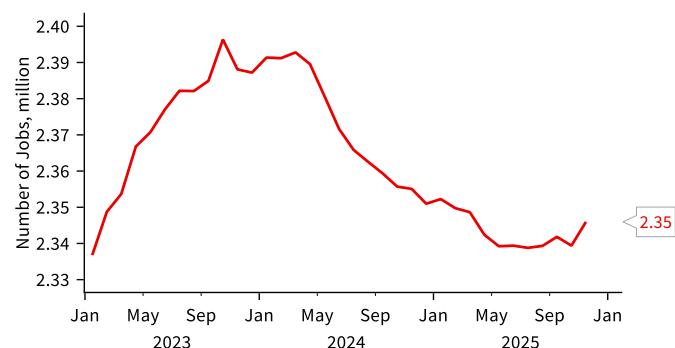
#### Contributions to quarterly headlines CPI

SA, pre-October 2025 basis



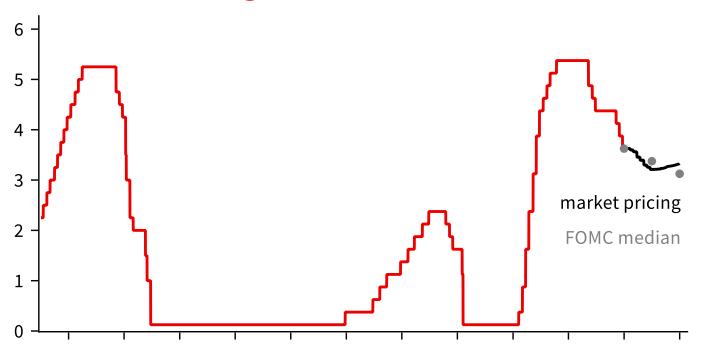
Source: National Australia Bank, ABS

#### New Zealand Filled Jobs



Source: National Australia Bank, Statistics New Zealand, Macrobond

#### Fed Funds Rate Target Mid Point



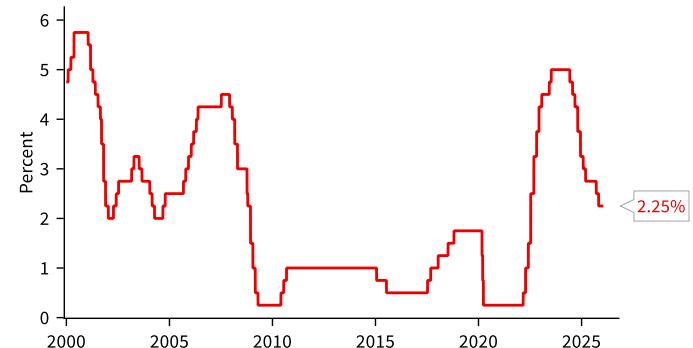
Source: National Australia Bank, Federal Reserve

### CA BoC Decision

The Bank of Canada is widely seen on hold at 2.25%, and we expect they will remain there all year. Market pricing reflects very little chance of a cut over the next few meetings and some risk of a hike by the end of the year.

The BoC in December said that "...policy rate is at about the right level." Q3 GDP data confirm that the Canadian economy has passed the trough in activity. The adjustment to the changed trade relationship is a supply-side challenge, but a retrace higher in the unemployment rate in January confirms there is still some spare capacity in the labour market. That should leave the BoC comfortable inflation will be near enough to target to leave policy at the bottom end of its estimates neutral range.

### Bank of Canada Target Overnight Rate



Source: National Australia Bank, Bank of Canada, Macrobond

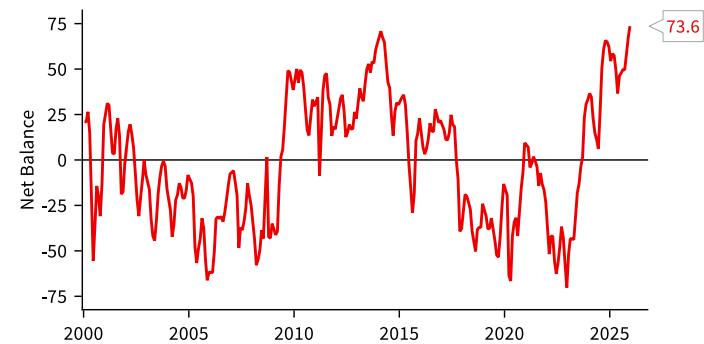
### Thursday

#### NZ ANZBO (January)

Business confidence rose to 73.6 in December, its highest level in 30-years. Firms' own activity expectations also jumped to 60.9 and support BNZ's forecasts for further economic recovery ahead.

Recent data suggest the improvement may be happening a touch earlier than expected, although they are slightly wary of over extrapolating the pace of change in some of these indicators. It remains an open question of how much of this optimism will translate into actual activity during an election year.

### ANZBO Business Confidence



Source: National Australia Bank, Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ) (New Zealand), Macrobond

## Forecasts Tables

See: [Australia Forward View](#)

### Australian Economic Forecasts

Australian Economic Forecasts																	
	2024				2025				2026				2027				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
<b>GDP</b>	(% yoy)																
Household Consumption	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.9	0.8	2.1	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	
Dwelling Investment	-1.0	-0.9	0.0	5.3	6.7	5.6	6.5	5.3	3.3	3.5	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	
Underlying Bus. Investment	3.6	1.2	-0.4	-2.3	-0.7	-2.0	3.0	3.5	3.6	4.8	1.5	1.4	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.3	
Public Final Demand	4.3	3.7	4.8	5.6	4.2	2.8	1.4	1.3	2.1	2.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	
Domestic Final Demand	(% qoq)	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.5	1.2	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	
	(% yoy)	2.2	1.4	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2
Gross Domestic Product	(% qoq)	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	
	(% yoy)	1.1	0.9	0.8	1.3	1.4	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3
<b>Labour Market</b>																	
Employment	(% qoq)	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	
Unemployment Rate	(%)	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	
WPI Wages	(% qoq)	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	
	(% yoy)	4.0	4.1	3.5	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	
<b>Inflation</b>																	
CPI Trimmed Mean	(% qoq)	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	
	(% yoy)	4.0	4.0	3.6	3.3	2.9	2.7	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.5	
CPI Headline	(% qoq)	1.0	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.7	1.3	0.6	1.2	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	
	(% yoy)	3.6	3.8	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.1	3.2	3.6	3.9	3.9	3.3	3.2	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.5

Source: ABS, NAB Economics. Quarterly percent change unless specified

See: [Global FX Strategist](#)

See: [Global Forward View](#)

### Exchange Rate Forecasts

	22-Jan	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27
<b>Majors</b>						
AUD/USD	0.68	0.69	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.70
NZD/USD	0.59	0.60	0.62	0.63	0.63	0.63
USD/JPY	158.6	144	140	135	135	135
EUR/USD	1.17	1.20	1.21	1.23	1.22	1.21
GBP/USD	1.35	1.35	1.36	1.38	1.37	1.36
USD/CNY	6.96	7.05	6.95	6.90	6.85	6.85
USD/CAD	1.38	1.36	1.32	1.28	1.30	1.29
USD/CHF	0.79	0.77	0.76	0.75	0.76	0.76
<b>Australian Cross Rates</b>						
AUD/NZD	1.16	1.15	1.15	1.14	1.13	1.11
AUD/JPY	108.5	99	99	97	96	95
AUD/EUR	0.58	0.58	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58
AUD/GBP	0.51	0.51	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.51
AUD/CNY	4.76	4.86	4.93	4.97	4.86	4.80
AUD/CAD	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.92	0.92	0.90
AUD/CHF	0.54	0.53	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.53

### Global GDP

	2024	2025	2026	2027
US	2.8	2.0	2.1	1.9
Euro-zone	0.8	1.5	1.4	1.5
Japan	-0.2	1.2	0.8	0.7
UK	1.1	1.4	0.9	1.0
Canada	2.0	1.7	1.1	1.7
China	5.0	4.9	4.2	3.9
India	6.7	7.7	6.3	6.2
Australia	1.0	1.9	2.1	2.2
NZ	-0.6	0.3	2.5	2.3
Global	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.0

### Interest Rate Forecasts

	22-Jan	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27
<b>Australian Rates</b>						
RBA cash rate	3.60	3.85	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10
3 month bill rate	3.81	4.12	4.22	4.22	4.22	4.22
3 Year Swap Rate	4.22	4.35	4.45	4.45	4.35	4.25
10 Year Swap Rate	4.86	4.95	5.00	5.10	5.00	4.90
<b>Offshore Policy Rates</b>						
US Fed funds	3.75	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.25	3.25
RBNZ OCR	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.50
<b>10-year Bond Yields</b>						
Australia	4.81	4.95	5.00	5.10	5.00	4.90
United States	4.24	4.25	4.35	4.50	4.50	4.50
New Zealand	4.59	4.55	4.65	4.80	4.80	4.80

## Month Ahead Calendar

This calendar focuses on Australian domestic releases only.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
29	30	31	01	02 Cotality Home Value MoM Dec
05	06	07 Building Approvals MoM CPI MoM Nov Nov	08 Trade Balance Nov	09
12 ANZ-Indeed Job Advertisements MoM Household Spending MoM Dec Nov	13 Westpac Consumer Conf Index Jan	14 Job Vacancies QoQ Nov	15	16 Overseas Arrivals and Depatures Nov
19	20 NAB Spend Trend Dec	21 Building Activity MoM Engineering Construction Activity Sep Sep	22 Unemployment Rate Dec	23
26 Public Holiday	27 NAB Business Conditions Dec	28 CPI QoQ CPI MoM 4Q Dec	29 Export Price Index QoQ Import Price Index QoQ 4Q 4Q	30 PPI QoQ Private Sector Credit MoM 4Q Dec

Source: National Australia Bank, Bloomberg

# Contacts

## NAB Economics & Markets Research

<b>Sally Auld</b>	Group Chief Economist	+(61 0) 422 224 752	Sally.Auld@nab.com.au
<b>Australian Economics</b>			
<b>Gareth Spence</b>	Head of Australian Economics	+(61 0) 422 081 046	Gareth.Spence@nab.com.au
<b>Taylor Nugent</b>	Senior Economist	+(61 0) 452 671 752	Taylor.Nugent@nab.com.au
<b>Jessie Cameron</b>	Senior Associate Economist	+(61 0) 491 380 013	Jessie.Cameron@nab.com.au
<b>Michael Hayes</b>	Associate Economist	+(61 0) 411 186 777	Michael.Hayes@nab.com.au
<b>International Economics</b>			
<b>Antony Kelly</b>	Head of International Economics	+(61 0) 477 746 237	Antony.Kelly@nab.com.au
<b>Gavin Friend</b>	Senior Markets Strategist	+(44) 207 710 1588	Gavin.Friend@eu.nabgroup.com
<b>Behavioural Economics</b>			
<b>Dean Pearson</b>	Head of Behavioural Economics	+(61 0) 457 517 342	Dean.Pearson@nab.com.au
<b>Robert De lure</b>	Associate Director Economics	+(61 0) 477 723 769	Robert.De.lure@nab.com.au
<b>Economics Analytics</b>			
<b>Brien McDonald</b>	Senior Economist	+(61 0) 455 052 520	Brien.McDonald@nab.com.au
<b>Thao Nguyen</b>	Associate Director Economics	+(61 0) 451 203 008	Thao.Nguyen5@nab.com.au
<b>Rocky Facciolo</b>	Analyst	+(61 0) 416 586 554	Rocky.Facciolo@nab.com.au
<b>Markets Research</b>			
<b>Skye Masters</b>	Head of Markets Research	+(61 0) 467 767 604	Skye.Masters@nab.com.au
<b>Barbara Leong</b>	Research Assistant	+(61 2) 7226 7382	Barbara.Leong@nab.com.au
<b>Credit Strategy</b>			
<b>Evy Noble</b>	Senior Associate Credit Strategy	+(61 2) 7226 7336	Evy.Noble@nab.com.au
<b>FX Strategy</b>			
<b>Ray Attrill</b>	Head of FX Strategy	+(61 2) 9293 7170	Ray.Attrill@nab.com.au
<b>Rodrigo Catril</b>	Senior FX Strategist	+(61 2) 9293 7109	Rodrigo.H.Catril@nab.com.au
<b>Rates Strategy</b>			
<b>Kenneth Crompton</b>	Head of Rates Strategy	+(61 0) 439 411 709	Kenneth.Crompton@nab.com.au
<b>Gregorius Steven</b>	Senior Associate Rates Strategy	+(61 2) 7209 8133	Gregorius.Steven@nab.com.au

## Important Notice

This document has been prepared by National Australia Bank Limited ABN 12 004 044 937 AFSL 230686 ("NAB"). Any advice contained in this document has been prepared without taking into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. Before acting on any advice in this document, NAB recommends that you consider whether the advice is appropriate for your circumstances.

NAB recommends that you obtain and consider the relevant Product Disclosure Statement or other disclosure document, before making any decision about a product including whether to acquire or to continue to hold it.

Please click [here](#) to view our disclaimer and terms of use.