# Global Markets and Commodities, Trade & Carbon Sales and Trading Practices for Wholesale Markets Disclosure

Last updated: December 2023

### General

#### CBA's Financial Markets Business

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia's ('CBA') operates globally through a number of CBA offices to engage in price quoting, order taking, transaction, execution and other market making and risk management activities across the wholesale fixed income, currency and commodity ('FICC') markets.

The purpose of this document is to clarify several key aspects of our Financial Markets businesses and is to be read in addition to any specific regulatory or legal requirements or other formal documentation regarding your relationship with CBA.

### Relationship

Unless otherwise agreed in writing, CBA operates strictly as a principal and does not act as agent, fiduciary, financial advisor or other similar capacity. Any statement or views expressed by any CBA and any staff you may interact with must not therefore be regarded as advice.

## Conflicts of Interest

## Risk Management

There are a number of inherent risks in transacting in FICC markets that cannot be completely eliminated. The role of CBA as both a market participant and market-maker means that at any time, we may be transacting with a variety of counterparties with divergent interests.

CBA manages risk on a portfolio basis, within set risk and capital limits. CBA front office staff may therefore hedge transactions on a portfolio basis such that it is proportionate with any assumed risk, position, trading strategy, prevailing liquidity and market positions.

CBA mitigates conflicts of interest, through disclosing, avoiding or controlling matters where conflicts may arise. To assist our front office staff in managing any conflicts of interests that may arise during



the life of a transaction, CBA has implemented various policies, procedures and training programs for staff.

### **Orders**

### Order handling

Placing an order with CBA does not create or imply an understanding between CBA and the client or counterparty to enter a transaction. Unless otherwise expressly agreed, CBA will exercise its discretion in determining whether to accept and execute all or part of an order. CBA will base this decision on a range of factors including the current state of the market and CBA's risk and trading appetite. CBA retains the right to decline an order if it carries unacceptable risk or has the reasonable potential to disrupt market integrity.

Unless a contrary agreement has been established, CBA will also retain discretion as to the necessary approach that should be adopted to satisfy any order requests including the aggregation, fill and priority of the transaction and may use any or all execution methods and liquidity sources currently available.

CBA will apply its discretion with respect to any industry or regulatory expectations in order to maintain reasonable and fair outcomes for our clients.

### Larger orders

Particular care will be taken by CBA when managing materially larger trades in order to prevent any adverse outcomes to either the market or our clients. CBA has staff policies and procedures to ensure protection of client confidential information, including the prevention of inappropriate disclosure of larger trade details within CBA and to other market participants.

For more information regarding CBA's management of larger orders, please contact your CBA Sales Representative.

## Pre-hedging

## Pre-hedging

CBA may enter into pre-hedging transactions with third parties in connection with one or more actual or anticipated client orders. CBA's intention with respect to pre-hedging is, in relation to the client order, to facilitate order execution, minimise disruption to the market and to manage risk. In determining whether to pre-hedge an actual or anticipated client order, CBA will consider a number of factors, including but not limited to prevailing market conditions (such as liquidity) and the size and nature of the actual or anticipated client order.

CBA may enter into pre-hedging or hedging transactions with third parties before (including but not limited to, within seconds or minutes before), during or after the pricing or execution of transactions between CBA and a client. Notwithstanding that CBA may enter into pre-hedging transactions for the abovementioned objects, there is no guarantee that pre-hedging will achieve the intended outcomes, additionally pre-hedging activity by CBA, particularly during times of low liquidity in the relevant



market, may adversely impact the economics and other terms of actual or anticipated client transactions with CBA, including the price that clients receive from CBA for a transaction.

Pre-hedging may be undertaken into benchmark fixes in a manner that aligns with industry codes of practice including the 'Global FX Code of Conduct' and 'AFMA Swaps Reference Price Transaction Guidelines' where transacting a client order over time before, during or after a fixing calculation window is acceptable. While undertaking any pre-hedging activity, CBA may continue to conduct ongoing business, including but not limited to market making, execution of client orders, trading for itself and entering into risk management transactions.

For further clarification regarding our pre-hedging principles or practices, please contact your CBA Sales Representative.

Wholesale FX clients should read this disclosure in conjunction with CBA's Foreign Exchange (FX) Order Execution and Order Handling Standard Client Disclosure for Order Service: <u>click here</u>.

## Reference Price Transactions

### Trading Reference Price Orders

Reference price transactions are transactions agreed with reference to a future determined auction price, benchmark, or other reference price. This involves agreeing all terms of a transaction except the price, which is set later based on observation of the reference price.

A counterparty should be aware of the key mechanics of reference prices and that the use of reference prices creates inherent conflicts of interest between CBA and its counterparties.

CBA manages these conflicts through various policies, procedures and training programs.

If CBA agrees to enter into a reference price transaction with you, our activity as a submitter or contributor to the reference price or our pre-hedging and hedging activity in respect of transactions ahead of or around the fixing time of the reference price may adversely impact the level of the reference price. Our hedging activity is only for risk mitigation purposes and never to influence or manipulate the reference price.

In executing reference price transactions with counterparties CBA observes the core principles in the Standard on Reference Price Transactions published by the FICC Markets Standards Board (FMSB), available at <u>Link</u>

## Pricing

## Pricing and Mark Up

CBA intends to provide competitive pricing to all clients in all wholesale markets that we operate. In order to provide fair and reasonable pricing, CBA may rely on a range of factors including internal validity, price checks, third party pricing and CBA's assessment of market liquidity and volatility factors. If and when CBA is able to fill an order at a particular price, it does not mean that CBA held, acquired



or would acquire inventory to complete the transaction at the order price level or that tradeable market exists at that level.

Any firm or indicative pricing provided by CBA is quoted as an 'all-in' price which is inclusive of any mark-ups. A mark-up is a spread or charge that can be included in the final price of a transaction in order to compensate CBA for any risks taken, costs incurred and services rendered for its clients and will apply unless expressly agreed otherwise.

## **Electronic Trading**

#### Electronic trading

CBA provides indicative pricing in spot, forward and swap FX markets using internal and external sources which may include third party electronic execution algorithms.

Electronic Trading includes any activity that allows the execution or placement of orders on an Electronic Trading platform. With respect to our FX business, CBA may provide you with access to an electronic trading platform that allows for the placement or self-execution of orders. In such instances, you should be aware that the price displayed or quoted to you consists of a core price which is an aggregated price from CBA and other external sources, combined with a mark-up applied by CBA (see 'pricing and mark-up').

Prices guoted or displayed may include rounding of decimal points.

When electing to use an electronic trading platform when transacting with CBA, you should be aware that:

- Short term discrepancies may exist between externally sourced prices utilised by the Electronic Trading platforms due to factors such as market infrastructure, communication and processing latencies and delays in the distribution of price updates;
- Subject to the Electronic Trading platforms trade parameters factors such as pricing, speed and likelihood of order execution may vary.

For further information regarding the Electronic Trading platforms that CBA may utilise when transacting with you, please contact your CBA Sales Representative

#### Last look

When a trade request is submitted in response to CBA's indicative pricing CBA may accept or reject the request at its sole discretion based on a number of automated pre-trade controls. These pre-trade controls are known as "Last Look".

Last Look is a standardised verification and protection mechanism for CBA's electronic pricing to identify whether trade requests are made at prices within CBA's tolerance for execution. This process can include credit, market volatility, liquidity and malformed order checks, as well as latency checks. Latency checks protect both the client and CBA against executing a trade in circumstances where the market price at the time of execution has moved outside pre-defined tolerances relative to the



indicative price quoted by CBA at the time of the trade request by the client, and therefore trading at the indicative quoted price under such circumstances could lead to an undesirable outcome to either party

When using Last Look, CBA does not pre-hedge or use any information gained in the Last Look window when market making and applies Last Look symmetrically. This means that trades may be rejected if the market price, when checked, has moved materially either in or against the client's favour. Materiality is determined by reference to factors relevant to the particular trade request, including but not limited to volatility, liquidity and the client's trading history with CBA.

## Information

#### Information handling

Protecting the confidentiality and security of client information is an important part of the way CBA does business.

CBA may make use of information provided by you, including but not limited to information relating to pre-trade activity, information contained in orders; and information regarding executed transactions to effect and risk manage the transactions themselves, as well as for portfolio and inventory risk management purposes.

CBA analyses and may share information internally on an individual and aggregate basis and may use the information for a variety of purposes, including for transactions, business strategy, sales coverage, and counterparty risk and relationship management.

CBA is subject to regulatory and other obligations that may require the disclosure of your information. With the exception of these obligations CBA will not disclose your information externally without your consent.

Aggregated and anonymised information regarding executed transactions and other relevant market information may be disclosed internally and externally as market colour.

CBA has policies, procedures, systems and controls that are designed to protect confidential information.

Please note that this Information Handling Disclosure does not extend to the management of personal information. For more information on how we handle personal information, please see our *Privacy Policy*.

## Market Commentary

#### Full Disclaimer

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For further information, please see our <u>Market Commentary Disclaimer</u>.

## Complaints and Disputes

## Complaints procedure

If you have experienced any issues or are otherwise dissatisfied with CBA's service, you can contact us via your CBA Sales Representative.

