

## Taxing Bitcoin

Cryptocurrencies, like Bitcoin, are independent and not regulated by any central authority. Until recently, these digital currencies were not treated in the same way as cash for tax purposes in Australia. New legislation passed by Parliament last month seeks to change all of that by removing GST from currency exchanges.

### How are cryptocurrencies taxed?

Under GST law, a 10% GST applies to supplies of goods and services. Money receives special treatment because it's a medium of exchange and not something for final private consumption. Up until recently, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) took the view that cryptocurrencies did not meet the definition of 'money' because they have an independent value rather than being a debt, credit or promise to make a payment, and they don't meet the definition of money under GST law. The impact was that when people used digital currencies as payment, this could trigger GST twice; once on the goods or services being purchased, and also on the supply of the digital currency to the other party. So, the Government has changed the definition of money for GST purposes from 1 July 2017. Now, trades of cryptocurrency are disregarded for GST purposes, unless the trade is for a payment of money or digital currency (for example you are in the business of trading cryptocurrencies). Cryptocurrencies are now taxed in a similar way for GST purposes to foreign currency.

But it's not just GST to consider. Income tax and capital gains tax (CGT) issues might also arise in transactions involving cryptocurrency depending on how and why you are using it.

### Individuals trading in cryptocurrencies

If you hold cryptocurrency for your own personal use and you paid \$10,000 or less to acquire the

digital currency, then there is generally no tax impact when you dispose of the currency. However, if the cryptocurrency is not held for your personal use and enjoyment then there are some tax issues that can arise.

If the cryptocurrency is held as an investment (i.e., not for personal use and enjoyment) or the cost is more than \$10,000 then CGT might apply when you sell or exchange the currency. At the time of writing the price of Bitcoin was just under US\$6,000 – up from just under US\$1,000 at the beginning of 2017 (and just over \$13 at the start of 2013). The taxing point for CGT purposes is normally when a contract is entered into. If there is no contact (which is often the case with digital currencies) the taxing point is when ownership changes.

The line between personal use and investment can be very thin. It will be difficult to argue that you hold cryptocurrency for personal use if you use it irregularly to purchase goods and services and you made a large gain from holding and trading it.

### Businesses trading in cryptocurrencies

If your business accepts cryptocurrency as payment for goods or services, these payments are treated in the same way as any other. That is, if your business is registered for GST, the price paid by the person paying in the digital currency should include GST. Likewise, if you purchase goods or services for use in your business then you should generally be able to claim GST credits on the transaction in your activity statement, even if you used digital currency to make the purchase.

If you are in the business of trading cryptocurrencies and your business is registered for GST, you charge GST on the exchange of the currency and claim the GST credits in your activity statement. The new legislation does not prevent GST from applying to the supply of cryptocurrencies in exchange for a payment of money or digital currency.

It is also possible that someone could hold cryptocurrency as trading stock if it is held for the purpose of sale or exchange in the ordinary course of a business. Any gains from the trades are then taxed in the business's income tax return (or individual tax return for sole traders). CGT concessions and exemptions are not generally available in this case. If you are in the business of trading cryptocurrencies, that is, you approach the trading in a business-like manner, then you can generally claim losses and other business expenses.

The tax laws can be complex in this area and it's important to ensure that you get the right advice.

**Can your SMSF invest in cryptocurrencies?**

Arguably, an SMSF can invest in cryptocurrencies but there are several factors to take into account before investing. Cryptocurrencies are a high risk product as they are blockchain driven and unregulated. While there have been numerous stories in the media about massive gains made on the currency by early investors, the price fluctuates, cryptocurrencies face new competitors, and "hard forks" occur - where the blockchain is split and forms a permanent divergence from the original. Bitcoin, for example, has broken into Bitcoin, Bitcoin Cash and now Bitcoin Gold. The danger is that you end up on the wrong fork. There is also the danger of hacker's breaching your fund's digital wallet and stealing your investment.

Trustees of the fund need to ensure that any investment in cryptocurrency is in line with the investment strategy of the fund, the Trust Deed allows for it at the time the investment is made, and it is an appropriate investment. In particular, the sole purpose test in the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993* requires that the fund is maintained for the sole purpose of providing retirement benefits to your members, or to their dependants if a member dies before retirement. Trustees need to ensure that the risk associated to these currencies is in the best interests of the fund. A minute documenting the decision to invest in the cryptocurrency would be beneficial.

For tax purposes, gains and losses in the fund are treated in the same way as other assets in the fund. That is, CGT may apply to any gains made on the sale or exchange of the currency.

If your fund invests in cryptocurrency, there are a few practical issues. Your SMSF auditor needs to confirm the ownership, existence, and value of the cryptocurrency. As a result, the digital wallet for your currency should be in the name of your fund

or the corporate trustee. You need to ensure that your personal assets, and the assets of your fund, are kept separate at all times. Once money is deposited into your fund, it may not simply be a case of being able to withdraw these amounts, and they may be 'stuck' in the fund until a condition of release is met, which usually means attaining retirement age. And, you need to be able to trace your transactions to identify trades, the value of the trade, and the time and date they occurred.

**Documentation to keep the ATO happy**

If you are using cryptocurrencies for whatever purpose, it's important to keep records of the transactions to ensure that if the ATO challenges your tax treatment of the currency, you can prove your position.

**Cleaners and couriers latest black economy target**

The detail of the Government's crackdown on cleaning and courier companies was revealed late last month.

From 1 July 2018, the taxable payments reporting system will extend beyond the building industry to cleaning and courier businesses. This means that these businesses will need to report payments they make to contractors (individual and total for the year) to the ATO. By 'payment' the ATO means any form of consideration including non-cash benefits and constructive payments.

The building industry has had this form of "enhanced reporting" since 2012-13. The result was an additional \$2.3 billion in income tax and GST liabilities collected through voluntary reporting in the first year alone.

**What is a cleaning and courier service?**

The terms 'cleaning service' and 'courier service' take their ordinary meaning.

Courier services include activities where items or goods are collected from, and/or delivered to, any place in Australia using a variety of methods including by truck, car, station wagon, van, ute, motorcycle, motorised scooter, bicycle or other non-powered means of transport, or on foot. Freight services, blood and blood product couriers, and passenger transport are not affected.

A cleaning service is any service where a structure, vehicle, place, surface, machinery or equipment has

been subject to a process in which dirt or similar material has been removed from it. This includes office cleaning, road sweeping or street cleaning, swimming pool cleaning, park and facilities cleaning, or cleaning for certain types of cultural or sporting events.

Mixed business that supply services including courier or cleaning services will also be affected.

### What you need to do

The first annual report for affected cleaning and courier companies is due by 29 August 2019 for the 2018-19 year. The types of information reported to the ATO about contractors include:

- ABN (where known)
- Name
- Address
- Total paid to the contractor (including GST) for the financial year, and
- Total GST included in the gross amount that was paid.

If an invoice you receive from a contractor includes both labour and materials, whether itemised or combined, you will need to report the total amount of the payment.

If your business is likely to be affected by the new requirements and you currently do not have systems in place that allow you to readily access the information required by the ATO, it's important to start your planning now.

## New legislation restricts access to the reduced company tax rate

Legislation restricting access to the small business company tax rate reduction entered Parliament last month. The changes specifically preclude companies with passive investments such as rental property income from qualifying for the small business entity tax rate of 27.5%.

For the 2017 income year a company could access the reduced company tax rate if it was carrying on a business and it had an aggregated turnover of less than \$10 million. The changes replace the 'carrying on a business test' with a 'passive income test' from the 2018 income year onwards. Under the new rules, to access the reduced company tax rate, 80% or less of the entity's assessable income must be passive in nature.

The passive income test is not simple. Where a company is receiving income from trusts or partnerships, you need to trace through to determine the nature of the income that was derived by that trust or partnership, and this might need to be done on multiple levels. For example, Trust 1 might distribute income to Trust 2, which then distributes income to a company. Whether dividends are treated as passive income will depend on the shareholding percentage involved.

These changes mean that companies that only hold rental properties will not qualify for the lower tax rate, even if the rental activities amount to a business under general principles. However, a company that receives distributions from a related trust could still qualify for the lower rate if 20% or more of its income is attributable to trading profits (directly or indirectly through the trust).

Under the proposed new rules, it will no longer be necessary to determine whether the company carries on a business in its own right under ordinary principles to determine its tax rate. The removal of the 'carrying on a business test' should eliminate some of the uncertainty that is currently faced when trying to determine the tax rate that applies to many private companies. However, this would still be relevant in determining whether a company can access other concessions that are available to small business entities.

Changes will also be made to the maximum franking percentage rules. In determining a company's maximum franking rate for a particular income year, you need to look at the tax rate that would apply in the current year if the following assumptions are made:

- The company's aggregated turnover in the current year is the same as in the previous year;
- The company's assessable income in the current year is the same as in the previous year; and
- The company's passive income in the current year is the same as in the previous year.

There have been a lot of changes to the company tax rules and who and what they apply to. This development should finally provide some much needed certainty around which companies can qualify for the lower corporate tax rate and the flow-on impact that this has on franking rates for dividends paid by companies.

#### Head Office

Suite 12 Level 3,  
Gateway Building  
1 Mona Vale Road  
Mona Vale NSW 2103

#### Sydney Office

Level 8  
23 O'Connell Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

T 02 8973 2222

admin@waterhouseca.com.au

[www.waterhouseca.com.au](http://www.waterhouseca.com.au)

ABN 60 535 258 608

Liability limited by a scheme  
approved under Professional  
Standards Legislation



Chartered  
Accountants

## How small subsidiaries are being caught by Australia's new multinational tax crackdown

Entities with a global parent or that are part of a large group of companies are being caught in the multinational tax crackdown regardless of their size in Australia.

With effect from 1 July 2016, many smaller entities connected to a larger parent or group are now only grappling with the changes prior to the lodgement of the 2016-17 tax returns.

A series of laws targeting multinationals came into effect from 1 July 2016 to ensure that tax is paid on economic activity in Australia. But it's not just entities with revenues of \$1bn or more that are affected. Subsidiaries may be caught by the new rules if they:

- Have a large global parent with annual global income of A\$1bn or more, or
- Form part of a group of entities consolidated for accounting purposes where the global parent entity has an annual global income of A\$1 billion or more.

This includes Australian headquartered entities (with or without foreign operations) and local operations of foreign head-quartered multinationals.

Australian entities (or a foreign entity with a permanent establishment) that meet these criteria are considered significant global entities (SGE). An SGE has additional reporting requirements if:

- It is not required to lodge general purpose financial statements with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC). Many wholly or partially owned foreign entities rely on the reporting exemption from ASIC.
- A corporate tax entity a company, corporate limited partnership or public trading trust.
- An Australian resident or a foreign resident operating an Australian permanent establishment (PE), at the end of the income year.

The additional reporting requirements are to ensure that profits and economic gains from activities in Australia are not diverted.

If the Australian entity does not already lodge general purpose financial statements with ASIC, where for example the entity might be exempt, then these financial statements need to be lodged with the ATO prior to the entity's tax return being lodged.

So, you could run a local subsidiary of a multinational that might be generating very little income and still be subject to the same reporting requirements as billion dollar companies.

Being classified as an SGE has broader implications than just the additional paperwork. The administrative penalties that apply to SGEs for entering into a scheme to reduce the amount of tax payable in Australia, failing to lodge tax returns and the accompanying financial statements, and failing to lodge on time, all attract much more significant penalties than if the entity was not an SGE.

## ASIC penalties 'the cost of doing business'

The Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) is set to increase penalties for corporate and financial sector misconduct to deter the fines being seen as the cost of doing business.

The impact of the proposed changes would be to expand the range of civil penalty provisions and to increase maximum civil penalty amounts in the *Corporations Act 2001* and *National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009* (Credit Act) to:

- for individuals, 2,500 penalty units (\$525,000); and
- for corporations, the greater of: 12,500 penalty units (\$2.625 million), or three times the benefit gained (or loss avoided) or 10% annual turnover.

This would mean increases from \$200,000 (individuals) and \$1 million (corporations) in the Corporations Act and 2,000 penalty units (\$420,000) for individuals and 10,000 penalty units (\$2.1 million) for corporations in the Credit Act.

ASIC is also seeking to expand its powers to enable it to remove benefits illegally obtained or losses avoided.

### Head Office

Suite 12 Level 3,  
Gateway Building  
1 Mona Vale Road  
Mona Vale NSW 2103

### Sydney Office

Level 8  
23 O'Connell Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

T 02 8973 2222

admin@waterhouseca.com.au

www.waterhouseca.com.au

ABN 60 535 258 608

Liability limited by a scheme  
approved under Professional  
Standards Legislation



Chartered  
Accountants

Maximum terms of imprisonment would also be increased for a range of offences to the highest maximum penalty available; 10 years imprisonment and substantial fines.

## Santa's Tax Crises

A light-hearted look at the complexity of Australian taxation laws.

Dear Santa,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide tax advice for your operation. We are pleased you have initiated this advice as the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is looking closely at any business or individual that operates within Australia but has significant transactions or operations internationally. The fact that you run a global business that generates no profit but 'gifts' millions of toys each year produced by your offshore factory, have significant brand value in Australia across thousands of goods and services, have never lodged a tax return, or paid tax in Australia, is likely to trigger an investigation. We have identified a number of issues as a starting point for further discussions. These are:

### Tax resident or non-resident?

We note that you have a secret Australian warehouse to aid distribution and Christmas Eve logistics across the region. The warehouse domiciled in Australia may mean that you have a permanent establishment in Australia, which could mean you are taxed in Australia on profits generated by the warehouse. As there is no Double Tax Agreement between Australia and the North Pole, it's possible you will be subject to local tax laws in both countries. You might be able to claim a tax credit to help reduce the impact of double taxation. We note that this same situation is likely to apply in many countries not just Australia.

Representation in a particular country may also be enough to make your operation subject to local tax laws. You appear to have local agents - several thousand Santa representatives - with authority to operate on your behalf in shopping centres across Australia. These agents commit the operation with the promise of toys to millions of children. A local agent acting with authority may expose you to local tax laws. This is an issue that may extend well beyond Australia. This issue requires immediate formal assessment.

### Santa's little helpers. Volunteers, underpaid employees, or slave labour?

A review should be completed of the employment status of the 'Santa's little helpers' based in Australia to determine if they are contractors or employees. If the helpers are deemed to be employees, you may be liable for the superannuation guarantee (SG) for this year (currently 9.5%) and previous years. If you have missed the SG deadline for any previous quarters then you would be subject to the superannuation guarantee charge, which means that interest and additional fees will be accumulating and you will not be able to claim a deduction for these amounts when they are paid. It will be difficult to argue that they are truly independent given the level of corporate branding involved. If the helpers are indeed 'volunteers' we will need to consult an employment lawyer regarding potential slave labour issues and discrimination of a minority group.

### Importing goods into Australia

Goods imported into Australia with a value above \$1,000 are subject to GST. As of 1 July 2018, the \$1,000 threshold will be removed and all goods brought into Australia will potentially be subject to GST. With approximately 4,836,227 children in Australia on your list, averaging \$40 per gift (we have made no allowances for they have been naughty or nice), we estimate that you will be liable for GST of approximately \$19,344,908. We need to discuss tax structuring urgently.

### Reindeers – beasts of burden?

If you are subject to Australian tax laws, a number of deductions may be available to you. Your flying reindeer for example are likely to be considered beasts of burden and as such can be depreciated as plant. However, a deduction is only available to the extent that the reindeer are used to produce income that is taxable in Australia.

### Travel expenses

The ATO has increased its focus on the tax treatment of travel expenses. While it is important to ensure that you only claim deductions for expenses incurred in producing income that is taxed in Australia, maintaining adequate records of your expenses is crucial in defending your position in the event of an ATO review or audit.

There are currently no provisions within Australian tax law to allow the Commissioner the discretion to ignore your tax liabilities as a goodwill gesture. Please contact us urgently regarding these issues.

Thank you.

#### Head Office

Suite 12 Level 3,  
Gateway Building  
1 Mona Vale Road  
Mona Vale NSW 2103

#### Sydney Office

Level 8  
23 O'Connell Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

T 02 8973 2222

admin@waterhouseca.com.au

[www.waterhouseca.com.au](http://www.waterhouseca.com.au)

ABN 60 535 258 608

Liability limited by a scheme  
approved under Professional  
Standards Legislation



Chartered  
Accountants

## Why 'property flipping' is the next ATO target

The tax law does not allow you to 'flip' a property tax-free even if you are living in it. Most people think that they can move in to a property, renovate it, and then sell it without paying tax. The main residence exemption - the exemption that protects your family home from tax - does not apply if your primary purpose is to 'flip' the property for a profit. The fact that you are living in the property does not mean it's exempt from tax.

Some people reading this are probably thinking, but who is going to know? How can the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) really know what my intention is when I buy a property to live in? Generally, the ATO is looking for a pattern of behaviour or a declaration of intention. For example:

- You are not employed and earn your income moving in, renovating then selling
- You have a pattern of renovating and selling properties
- Your loan documents on your mortgage suggest the property is for flipping and not for the long term
- You go on national television stating that you are looking to move in, renovate and flip the property (hello *The Block* contestants).

The ATO's guide on property is clear: *"If you're carrying out a profit-making activity of property renovations also known as 'property flipping', you report in your income tax return your net profit or loss from the renovation (proceeds from the sale of the property less the purchase and other costs associated with buying, holding, renovating and selling it)."*

People often make the assumption that any gain made from property flipping will be exempt from tax as long as the property is their main residence for the entire ownership period. However, this is only the case where the property is held on capital account. A property would generally be held on capital account if it is bought with the genuine intention of using it as a private residence or rental property for the foreseeable future and there is evidence to back this up.

The ATO indicates that someone who is renovating a property with the intention of selling the property again at a profit could be taxed on revenue account

in which case the main residence exemption does not apply.

The guide identifies three main scenarios and the general tax implications:

- Personal property investor – this is someone who purchases a property with the primary intention of using it as a long-term rental property or private residence. If this person undertakes renovations and then sells the property earlier than originally planned, then they should still generally be able to argue that the sale is dealt with on capital account, which means that the main residence exemption and/or Capital Gains Tax (CGT) discount could apply.
- Isolated profit making undertaking – this is someone who buys a property with the primary intention of carrying out renovations and then selling the property when the work is completed. Someone in this category is likely to be taxed on revenue account with no access to the main residence exemption or CGT discount.
- Business of renovating properties – this is someone who undertakes property-flipping activities on a regular or repetitive basis and where the activities are organised in a business-like manner. As with the category above, there is generally no access to the main residence exemption or CGT discount.

Just because you live in the property for all or part of the ownership period does not automatically mean that the profits from sale are exempt from tax. The main residence exemption can only reduce capital gains; it cannot reduce amounts that are taxed on revenue account.

### What is the main residence exemption?

Generally, you do not pay CGT on the sale of your private home.

A full exemption should be available if the following conditions are met:

- You are an individual who is selling a dwelling or an ownership interest in a dwelling;
- The dwelling has been your home for the entire ownership period;
- The dwelling has not been used to produce assessable income (i.e., rented out); and

#### Head Office

Suite 12 Level 3,  
Gateway Building  
1 Mona Vale Road  
Mona Vale NSW 2103

#### Sydney Office

Level 8  
23 O'Connell Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

T 02 8973 2222

admin@waterhouseca.com.au

www.waterhouseca.com.au

ABN 60 535 258 608

Liability limited by a scheme  
approved under Professional  
Standards Legislation



Chartered  
Accountants

- The dwelling is situated on land that is 2 hectares or less.

In some situations it is possible to apply a full exemption even if you have not lived in the property for the entire ownership period or where the property has been rented out for a period of time. However, the rules can be complex and need to be analysed in detail to confirm the position.

If a full exemption is not available, it may still be possible to apply a partial exemption. The general 50% CGT discount can also be applied if you have owned the dwelling for more than 12 months (subject to your residency status).

Earlier this year the Government announced that non-residents and temporary residents would no longer be able to access the main residence exemption (existing properties held prior to 9 May 2017 will be able to access the exemption until 30 June 2019). However, these proposed changes are not yet law and we are still waiting on the final version of the new rules to be released.

Whether a dwelling is your main residence is a question of fact. The following factors are often taken into account to help determine the issue:

- The length of time you have lived in the dwelling;
- The place of residence of your family;
- Whether you have moved your personal belongings into the dwelling;
- The address you have your mail delivered;
- Your address on the Electoral Roll;
- The connection of services such as telephone, gas and electricity; and
- Your intention in occupying the dwelling.

### Other tax and renovation issues

The main residence exemption is not the only issue that comes up with property flipping. Tax deductions for rental properties and renovating for profit inside an SMSF are common topics:

### Can I claim a tax deduction for renovations on my investment property?

It is generally possible to claim an upfront deduction for amounts spent on improving a property unless you are carrying on a business of buying, renovating and selling properties. If the property is held for long-term investment purposes then it is generally possible to claim a deduction for these costs over a period of time while the property is used to generate rental income.

### Can I renovate a rental property owned by my SMSF?

An SMSF can renovate a property it owns as long as the money used to pay for the renovation is from money already within the fund. If the members pay for the renovation themselves (instead of using money in the fund), the renovation costs can create a contribution issue and the value could even be the improved value of the asset. The usual restrictions around a SMSF acquiring assets from a related party should also be considered, so the SMSF should pay for all the required materials for the renovations directly (or under an agency agreement) rather than reimbursing a related party for the expense.

## Foreign property owners slapped with fee for vacant property

Australia has followed the international trend of penalising foreign owners of Australian residential property who keep their property vacant for extended periods of time.

Last month Parliament approved legislation that imposes an annual vacancy fee on foreign owners of residential real estate if the property is not occupied or genuinely available on the rental market for at least 183 days in a particular 12 month period.

Foreign owners can avoid the fee by living in the property (or have a family member live in the property), leasing the property, or making it available for rent, for a total of 183 days in a 12 month period. A property is genuinely available for rent if it is made available on the rental market; advertised publicly; and, available at a market rent.

Interestingly, the law requires the property to be let for a minimum of 30 days – so short term rentals arranged through platforms such as AirBNB are not an option unless the rental period is 30 days or more.

If owners fail to comply with the new law the Government has the capacity to recover any outstanding fee as a debt and/or by the creation of a charge over Australian land owned by the foreign person.

The vacancy fee is equal to the initial foreign investment application fee (currently \$5,500 for properties acquired for \$1m or less). The vacancy fee can also apply even if the initial application fee

#### Head Office

Suite 12 Level 3,  
Gateway Building  
1 Mona Vale Road  
Mona Vale NSW 2103

#### Sydney Office

Level 8  
23 O'Connell Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

T 02 8973 2222

admin@waterhouseca.com.au

www.waterhouseca.com.au

ABN 60 535 258 608

Liability limited by a scheme  
approved under Professional  
Standards Legislation



Chartered  
Accountants

was waived. A vacancy year generally starts at settlement when the property was acquired or in some cases when the occupancy certificate is issued for newly built dwellings. The new vacancy fee system only applies if the notice or application to acquire the property was submitted with the Foreign Investment Review Board on or after 7.30pm on 9 May 2017.

Importantly, a foreign person who falls within the scope of the rules will need to lodge a vacancy fee return with the ATO within 30 days of the end of the relevant 12 month period. If this obligation is not met then the owner is deemed to be liable to the vacancy fee, even if the 183 day occupation requirement was actually satisfied. The main exception to this is where the owner has disposed of their interest in the property before the end of a particular vacancy year.

*The material and contents provided in this publication are informative in nature only. It is not intended to be advice and you should not act specifically on the basis of this information alone. If expert assistance is required, professional advice should be obtained*

## The Uber Driver GST Surprise

As most people are now aware, Uber drivers need to register for GST by the time they complete their first drive. What many are unaware of however is that the GST registration applies to any other businesses that they run as a sole trader. Take the example of someone who has a micro business that turns over less than \$75,000. Under GST law, the business owner is not required to be registered for GST and there should be no GST on the things they sell to customers. However, if this same micro business person starts driving for Uber, the GST registration applies not only to their Uber activities but to their micro business as well.

## ACCC gets tough on credit card surcharge

The ACCC has issued a warning to businesses charging excessive credit card fees. One large merchant has already been issued with four infringement notices and has paid \$43,200 in penalties.

The new rules, which came into effect from 1 September 2017, prevent merchants from charging more than the true cost of the transaction. As a guide, where a charge is imposed, the ACCC says that consumers should expect to pay around 0.5% to 1% for payment by debit card, 1% to 1.5% by MasterCard and Visa credit cards and 2% to 3% for American Express. Consumers are being encouraged to contact the ACCC if a business is charging more than what the ACCC expects.

### Head Office

Suite 12 Level 3,  
Gateway Building  
1 Mona Vale Road  
Mona Vale NSW 2103

### Sydney Office

Level 8  
23 O'Connell Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

T 02 8973 2222

admin@waterhouseca.com.au

[www.waterhouseca.com.au](http://www.waterhouseca.com.au)

ABN 60 535 258 608

Liability limited by a scheme  
approved under Professional  
Standards Legislation



Chartered  
Accountants