

Media statement

Retail Deposit Guarantee Scheme continues as Wholesale Guarantee Facility closes

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The New Zealand Wholesale Guarantee Facility closed today, while the separate Retail Deposit Guarantee Scheme continues to operate.

The wholesale facility was set up in November 2008 to help banks operating in New Zealand access funding during the liquidity crisis that affected global financial markets. International market conditions have improved, and continue to improve in 2010, and New Zealand banks are now raising wholesale funding without using the guarantee, which was always envisaged as a temporary measure for extraordinary times.

Since the Wholesale Guarantee Facility was set up, 24 guarantee certificates have been issued, covering \$10.3 billion of wholesale borrowing by banks. To date, no claims have been made against the Wholesale Guarantee Facility and the Treasury considers the likelihood of future claims to be remote as the existing guaranteed issues roll through to maturity.

The closure of the Wholesale Guarantee Facility does not affect the current or extended Retail Deposit Guarantee Schemes, which continue to operate. Currently, deposits totalling approximately \$133 billion

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When an institution that has signed a Crown guarantee deed defaults on its obligations, then the Crown repays the eligible depositors and takes over their rights as creditors of the institution. The Crown stands by its commitment under the guarantee and has repaid money owed totalling \$69.7 million to those eligible depositors in Mascot Finance and Strata Finance who have submitted claims. The process to repay eligible depositors with Vision Securities Limited is under way and an initial communication is scheduled for mid May 2010.

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