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Response to Treasury Laws Amendment (Mutual entities) Bill 2018

Australian Unity welcomes the Treasury Laws Amendment (Mutual entities) Bill 2018.

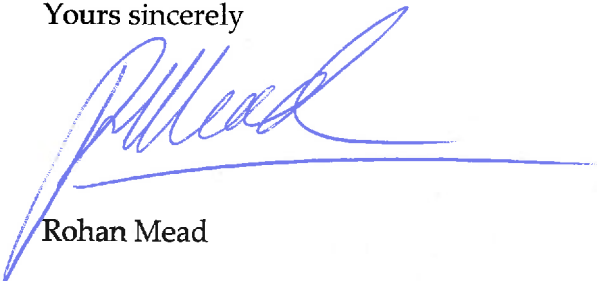
Mutuals have played an important part in Australian society for close to 200 years—providing access to a range of essential services including banking, health services, insurance and retirement living. It is important for the sector that the mutual corporate form will be recognised in legislation. It provides customers and the community with greater choice, and helps mutuals compete on a more even playing field with shareholding companies.

We are supportive of this legislation, as the first of two steps to implement the key Hammond Review recommendations to help mutuals to raise new capital.

In relation to the specific amendments proposed in the Bill, Australian Unity supports the joint response prepared by the Business Council of Cooperatives and Mutuals and the Customer Owned Banking Association.

In addition to the suggested changes outlined in this joint submission, Australian Unity believes that consideration should be given to the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) retaining an exemption power under Part 5 of the *Corporations Act 1998* (even if section 29(3) and section 30 of Part 5 are deleted). It is impossible to foresee all future possibilities and if unforeseen circumstances arise, it would be useful and appropriate for ASIC to have such a power, consistent with its powers in other areas of the *Corporations Act*.

Yours sincerely



Rohan Mead

