Meeting between Federal Reserve Board Staff and Representatives of Australian Banks
May 18, 2012

Participants: Anthony Burke (Australian Bankers’ Association); Neil Smyth (Australia & New Zealand Banking Group); Robert Colby and Annette Nazareth (Davis Polk); Howard Silby (National Australia Bank); and Michael Barbour and Kevin Nixon (Westpac Banking Corp.)
Scott Alvarez, Sean Campbell, and Anna Harrington (Federal Reserve Board)

Summary: Staff of the Federal Reserve Board met with representatives of Australia & New Zealand Banking Group, National Australia Bank, and Westpac Banking Group to discuss the restrictions on proprietary trading and hedge fund and private equity fund activities under section 619 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (also known as the “Volcker Rule”).

Among matters discussed in the meeting were the representatives’ views regarding: the potential impact of the Volcker Rule on the banks’ investment advisory and asset management business in light of the superannuation scheme in Australia; the possibility of an exemption from the restrictions on proprietary trading for Australian government securities; and the scope of statutory exemptions related to activities of foreign-based banking entities “solely outside of the United States.”