

The Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP
Treasurer
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Treasurer

I write regarding ongoing government measures to protect the community in the wake of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the efforts of government and industry to support employment and economic activity in the short- and medium-terms across Australia.

The Australian Property Institute represents almost 8000 property professionals, including property valuers. Property professionals underpin the largest industry sector in Australia, with the property industry employing more than 1.4 million Australians and contributing more than \$200 billion to the national economy.

Valuations support the regulated financial services industry by managing credit risk and underline the many assets held by real estate investment trusts and superannuation funds, as well as financial transactions and investments across the board.

Valuations are used as a cornerstone balance sheet measure, not only in the assessment of personal wealth, but backing the successful issuance of residential mortgage backed securities for all major and secondary Australian financial institutions.

These are essential to the ongoing liquidity and funding requirements associated with the sector.

If further restrictions of movement and activity for business and the community, which also allow for essential services to continue, are introduced, it is important the valuation industry be considered an essential support system for our financial services industry.

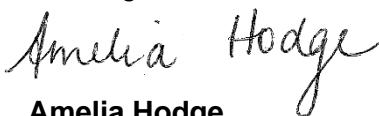
A certified valuer, such as a member of the API, is required to strict guidelines, methodologies, codes of conduct and practices, including the International Valuations Standards to ensure accurate, independent and robust valuations. This is critical to maintain the trust and respect when dealing with the homes and investments of millions of Australians.

Allowing valuation to continue ensures families can make the decisions they need to make regarding their property assets, banks can continue to loan to businesses while the industry manages risk and supports employment and economic activity.

The API can provide government with additional information and advice as business support measures are developed.

If you or your officers have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or General Manager Corporate Affairs Nelson Savanh on +61 424 988 523 or nsavanh@api.org.au.

Kind regards,



Amelia Hodge
Chief Executive Officer