

## **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

**Issued by authority of the Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury**

*Currency Act 1965*

*Currency (Australian Coins) Amendment (2023 Royal Australian Mint No. 4)  
Determination 2023*

Subsection 13(2) and section 13A of the *Currency Act 1965* (the Act) provide that the Treasurer may, by legislative instrument, determine details of Australian coin characteristics including denomination, standard composition, standard weight, allowable variation from standard weight, design and dimensions.

The purpose of this legislative instrument is to determine the characteristics of 5 new non-circulating coins proposed to be issued by the Royal Australian Mint.

The Treasurer may authorise the making and issuing of coins specified, or taken to be specified, in the Schedule to the *Currency Act 1965*. A payment of money is a legal tender if it is made in coins that are made and issued under the *Currency Act 1965*. Through the issue of a currency determination, the Treasurer can add, remove and alter the coin characteristics specified, or taken to be specified, in the Schedule to the *Currency Act 1965*.

In accordance with section 19 of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*, any Minister in the Treasury portfolio may, by legislative instrument, determine details of Australian coin characteristics.

Details of the legislative instrument are set out in the Attachment.

The legislative instrument commenced on the day after it was registered on the Federal Register of Legislation.

The legislative instrument is subject to disallowance under section 42 of the *Legislation Act 2003*.

The Determination is a legislative instrument for the purposes of the *Legislation Act 2003*. The Determination is not subject to sunseting under the *Legislation Act 2003* on the grounds that the instrument ensures economic certainty (see *Legislation (Exemptions and Other Matters) Regulation 2015*). The instrument's operation is integral in ensuring that the currency produced by the Mints becomes, and remains, legal tender unless or until returned to a mint to be taken out of circulation in accordance with the *Currency Act 1965*.

### **Consultation**

No public consultation was undertaken in relation to this legislative instrument. The effect of this instrument is to determine details of new Australian coin characteristics which will enable the Royal Australian Mint to continue its production of circulating and numismatic coins.

Members of the public have the opportunity to contact the Royal Australian Mint to present any themes they would like to see commemorated on Australian legal tender. These concepts

are then researched and assessed in accordance with the Royal Australian Mint's *Coin Design Policy*. The Royal Australian Mint also uses market-based tools to identify interested parties and gauge interest in coin themes.

## **Statement of Compatibility with Human Rights**

*Prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*

### ***Currency (Australian Coins) Amendment (2023 Royal Australian Mint No. 4) Determination 2023***

This Legislative Instrument is compatible with the human rights and freedoms recognised or declared in the international instruments listed in section 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*.

## **Overview of the Legislative Instrument**

The purpose of this legislative instrument is to determine the characteristics of 5 new non-circulating coins proposed to be issued by the Royal Australian Mint.

## **Human rights implications**

This Legislative Instrument does not engage any of the applicable rights or freedoms.

## **Conclusion**

This Legislative Instrument is compatible with human rights as it does not raise any human rights issues.

## ATTACHMENT

### Details of the *Currency (Australian Coins) Amendment (2023 Royal Australian Mint No. 4) Determination 2023*

This Attachment sets out further details of the *Currency (Australian Coins) Amendment (2023 Royal Australian Mint No. 4) Determination 2023* (the Determination).

#### Section 1 – Name

This section provides that the name of the Determination is the *Currency (Australian Coins) Amendment (2023 Royal Australian Mint No. 4) Determination 2023*.

#### Section 2 – Commencement

This section prescribes that the Determination commences the day after the Determination is registered.

#### Section 3 – Authority

This section provides that the Determination is made under the *Currency Act 1965*.

#### Section 4 – Schedule

This section provides that each instrument specified in a Schedule to the Determination is amended or repealed as set out in the Schedule.

#### Schedule 1 – Amendments

Schedule 1 amends the *Currency (Australian Coins) Determination 2019* by adding the details of new coin characteristics and making technical amendments to ensure the Determination operates as intended. The newly determined coin characteristics are set out below.

### *New non-circulating coins*

#### **2023 20c Coloured Uncirculated Coin – 35th Anniversary of Edward the Emu**

#### **2023 20c Coloured Gold-Plated Uncirculated Coin – 35th Anniversary of Edward the Emu**

The design on the 2023 20c coloured uncirculated coins – 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Edward the Emu consists of a coloured representation of the character Edward the Emu from the children's book *Edward the Emu* (as illustrated by Rod Clement) at the top of the coin. In the centre of the coin, there is a representation of the following other characters from the book, facing towards the centre of the coin:

- i. an emu and a lioness; and
- ii. a snake and a seal.

The design includes the following inscriptions: “EDWARD THE EMU”; “35TH ANNIVERSARY”; and “20”.

Consistent with all Australian legal tender coinage, an effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will appear on the obverse side of the coins together with the inscriptions “ELIZABETH II”, “AUSTRALIA”, “2023”, and “1952-2022” (being the dates of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's reign). The obverse design includes the initials of the designer Jody Clark “JC”.

#### **2023 \$5 Coloured Uncirculated Coin – Australian World Heritage Properties**

The design on the 2023 \$5 coloured uncirculated coin – Australian World Heritage Properties consists of, in the centre of the coin, a coloured stylised representation of a handprint, fan palm frond and shell fossil enclosed in a circular border comprising a ring of dashes. Surrounding the central circle, there is another circular border containing the following inscriptions: “AUSTRALIAN WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES”; and “5 DOLLARS”. Surrounding the inscribed border is a ring comprising overlapping circular lines. There is a montage of the following stylised representations of Australian sites (or elements from those Australian sites) on the World Heritage List:

- i. the Brickendon Estate (Australian Convict Site in Tasmania); and
- ii. the Cascades Female Factory (Australian Convict Site in Tasmania); and
- iii. the Coal Mines Historic Site (Australian Convict Site in Tasmania); and
- iv. Cockatoo Island (Australian Convict Site in New South Wales); and
- v. the Darlington Probation Station (Australian Convict Site in Tasmania); and
- vi. Fremantle Prison (Australian Convict Site in Western Australia); and
- vii. Hyde Park Barracks (Australian Convict Site in New South Wales); and
- viii. the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (Australian Convict Site in Norfolk Island); and
- ix. Old Government House and Government Domain (Australian Convict Site in New South Wales); and
- x. the Old Great North Road (Australian Convict Site in New South Wales); and
- xi. the Port Arthur Historic Site (Australian Convict Site in Tasmania); and
- xii. the Woolmers Estate (Australian Convict Site in Tasmania); and
- xiii. the Australian Fossil Mammal Site in Naracoorte, South Australia; and
- xiv. the Australian Fossil Mammal Site in Riversleigh, Queensland; and
- xv. Budj Bim Cultural Landscape in Victoria; and
- xvi. the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia in New South Wales and Queensland; and
- xvii. the Great Barrier Reef in Queensland (represented by a clownfish); and
- xviii. the Greater Blue Mountains Area in New South Wales; and

- xix. Heard Island and McDonald Islands in the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands; and
- xx. Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory; and
- xxi. *K'gari* (Fraser Island) in Queensland; and
- xxii. the Lord Howe Island Group in New South Wales; and
- xxiii. Macquarie Island, Tasmania; and
- xxiv. Purnululu National Park in Western Australia; and
- xxv. the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, in Victoria; and
- xxvi. Shark Bay, Western Australia; and
- xxvii. Sydney Opera House in New South Wales; and
- xxviii. the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area; and
- xxix. the Ningaloo Coast, Western Australia; and
- xxx. the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park in the Northern Territory; and
- xxxi. the Wet Tropics of Queensland (represented by a cassowary); and
- xxxii. the Willandra Lakes Region of New South Wales.

Consistent with all Australian legal tender coinage, an effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will appear on the obverse side of the coin together with the inscriptions “ELIZABETH II”, “AUSTRALIA”, “2023”, and “1952-2022” (being the dates of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s reign). The obverse design includes the initials of the designer Jody Clark “JC”.

***2023 \$100 Gold Coloured Proof Domed Coin – Beauty Rich & Rare – Twelve Apostles***  
***2023 \$5 Silver Coloured Proof Domed Coin – Beauty Rich & Rare – Twelve Apostles***

The design on the 2023 coloured proof domed coins – Beauty Rich & Rare – Twelve Apostles consists of, in the foreground, sand, cliff faces and clouds. In the background is a coloured representation of The Twelve Apostles rock formation in Victoria. The design includes the following inscriptions: “TWELVE APOSTLES”; “2023 BEAUTY, RICH & RARE”; Arabic numerals for the amount, in dollars or cents, of the denomination of the coin, either preceded by “\$” or followed by “¢” as the case requires; and “AS” (being the initials of the designer Aleksandra Stokic).

Consistent with all Australian legal tender coinage, an effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will appear on the obverse side of the coins together with the inscriptions “ELIZABETH II”, “AUSTRALIA”, and “1952-2022” (being the dates of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s reign). The obverse design includes the initials of the designer Jody Clark “JC”.

On the obverse of the coins, the effigy is enclosed by a central circle and is surrounded by a stylistic representation of fast flowing water, fan palm fronds and vines, and rock formations. The design includes the following inscription: either “X OUNCE .9999 GOLD” or “X OUNCE FINE SILVER” as the case requires (where “X” is the nominal weight in ounces of the coin, expressed in words).