



ASX Tokenisation Working Group

Derivatives Clearing Workshop Summary | 23 September 2026

Workshop overview

The Derivatives Clearing workshop explored where tokenisation could deliver practical benefits across the derivatives clearing lifecycle, with a particular focus on margin and collateral management.

The discussion reinforced that tokenisation should not be viewed as a solution in isolation. Rather, its value will depend on addressing the underlying collateral eligibility, risk, regulatory, operational and commercial settings alongside the technology.

Participants broadly supported continued exploration of tokenisation as an enabler of greater collateral mobility and more efficient margin processes, particularly outside traditional operating and settlement hours.

Key takeaways

The workshop discussion highlighted four overarching messages:

1. Start with margin and collateral

Margin and collateral management appear to offer the clearest derivatives clearing use case for tokenisation, particularly in addressing overnight funding and collateral mobility.

2. Solve eligibility and mobility together

Tokenisation makes collateral easier to move, but the benefit will only be realised if participants have a sufficiently broad and commercially attractive pool of eligible collateral.

3. Use Austraclear as the near-term pathway

The extension of Austraclear through tokenisation could provide a practical foundation for mobilising eligible securities outside traditional settlement hours and addressing existing overnight margin friction.

4. Build progressively and leverage global developments

Initial solutions should minimise participant change and use existing infrastructure wherever possible, while progressively introducing programmability, digital money and greater automation as the ecosystem matures.

Key Themes

1. Margin and collateral emerged as the priority use case

Discussion focused predominantly on margin and collateral, with participants generally supporting this as the most relevant area for further exploration.

Key themes included:

- Greater ability to mobilise collateral outside traditional settlement hours could address existing friction associated with overnight margin calls.
- Tokenisation could enable collateral to be moved faster and potentially support more automated and continuous margin processes.
- Participants highlighted the opportunity cost associated with maintaining cash and liquidity buffers to ensure overnight obligations can be met.
- Greater automation could reduce reliance on manual or out-of-cycle operational processes associated with overnight margin calls.
- Tokenisation could also improve participants' ability to optimise collateral across different obligations and locations.

The discussion nevertheless emphasised that tokenisation is an enabler rather than the complete solution. Changes to collateral eligibility, risk frameworks and existing operational processes may be equally important.

2. Expanding eligible collateral is fundamental

A strong theme was the industry's desire for greater flexibility in the assets that can be used as collateral.

While ASX currently accepts certain forms of non-cash collateral, participants noted that cash continues to dominate collateral posted to ASX Clear (Futures). Industry participants expressed interest in a broader range of potential collateral, including:

- high-quality securities other than Australian Government Securities;
- US Treasuries;
- money market instruments;
- tokenised securities; and
- over time, appropriately regulated digital forms of money or other digital assets.

Participants emphasised that the technology required to mobilise an asset and the eligibility of that asset as CCP collateral are separate questions.

Any expansion would need to meet ASX's risk requirements and applicable regulatory standards, including considerations relating to liquidity, valuation, haircuts and default management.

3. The 2am margin call represents a meaningful industry friction

Significant discussion centred on the existing overnight margin process for ASX Clear (Futures) and, in particular, the 2am USD margin call.

Participants identified several challenges:

- funding obligations outside normal Australian payment system operating hours;
- reliance on USD and commercial bank arrangements;
- the need to maintain liquidity buffers in advance;
- manual or operational intervention during overnight hours; and
- the current separation of the overnight call from the broader margin cycle.

Participants saw potential for tokenised collateral to reduce some of these frictions by enabling eligible collateral to be mobilised outside traditional operating hours.

Longer term, this could support a shift from discrete margin calls towards more frequent or continuous margining, subject to appropriate market demand, risk management arrangements and operational readiness.

4. Austraclear provides a potential near-term pathway

The proposed extension of Austraclear operating hours through tokenisation was identified as a potentially practical starting point.

The model discussed would initially preserve existing participant interfaces while using tokenisation behind the scenes to enable eligible Austraclear securities to move outside current operating hours and the use of DLT technology for the margin call process.

This could provide a pathway to:

- use tokenised Australian Government Securities or other eligible assets for overnight margin;
- automate movement of collateral following a margin call;
- allow participants to pre-identify collateral available to meet margin obligations;
- reduce reliance on overnight USD funding; and
- ultimately introduce programmability through smart contracts.

Participants generally favoured an incremental approach that initially minimises participant change and progressively exposes additional token functionality as the market becomes ready to use it.

5. Programmability and automation could provide operational benefits

Participants discussed the longer-term potential for programmable collateral and smart contracts.

For example, participants could identify a pool of eligible collateral and establish rules determining which assets should be used against particular obligations and in what priority.

A margin event could then trigger collateral movement automatically, rather than requiring an operator to manually identify, pledge and settle collateral.

Potential benefits discussed included:

- automated fulfilment of margin calls;
- reduced manual intervention;
- more efficient collateral allocation;
- faster collateral substitution and return;
- fewer operational dependencies outside normal business hours; and
- improved ability to manage collateral dynamically.

However, implementation would require agreement on areas including wallets, networks, asset eligibility, valuations, pricing data, smart-contract standards and governance.

6. Digital money remains an important dependency

The availability of an appropriate form of digital money remains an important consideration, particularly where variation margin or other cash obligations must ultimately be settled.

The group discussed several possible future forms, including:

- central bank digital money;
- tokenised commercial bank deposits; and
- regulated stablecoins.

Central bank money was viewed as particularly attractive from a settlement and counterparty-risk perspective, but participants recognised that availability may not align with nearer-term implementation opportunities.

Stablecoins and tokenised deposits may emerge earlier, although questions remain around counterparty risk, regulatory treatment, reserve arrangements and eligibility as CCP collateral.

The discussion reinforced the importance of continued engagement with regulators and the RBA as Australia's tokenised money ecosystem develops.

7. Improvements to underlying clearing processes remain important

Participants identified several existing derivatives clearing frictions that are not necessarily tokenisation problems.

One example was the timing difference between trade execution and clearing. Participants noted that client positions may economically be offset but not yet reflected in the CCP's clearing and margin calculations, potentially contributing to margin requirements that do not reflect the participant's latest economic position.

Upcoming improvements to ASX's derivatives clearing infrastructure were discussed as potentially addressing some of these issues independently of tokenisation.

The broader message was that ASX should assess the underlying problem first and technology second, rather than assuming tokenisation is required for every clearing improvement.

8. Adoption will depend on the industry-wide commercial case

Participants emphasised that the benefits and costs of new collateral arrangements will differ between:

- the CCP;
- clearing participants; and
- underlying clients.

Tokenisation could reduce funding costs, collateral buffers and operational effort, but those benefits need to be considered alongside the cost of implementation, connectivity, wallets, custody arrangements and participation in new networks.

Commercial incentives may also help explain why existing forms of non-cash collateral are currently underutilised.

The business case therefore needs to consider the end-to-end economics across the clearing chain, rather than focusing solely on efficiencies for the CCP.

9. Global developments provide an opportunity to fast-follow

The workshop considered developments underway across global derivatives and collateral markets.

Rather than developing bespoke Australian solutions where established global approaches are emerging, participants supported ASX taking a fast-follower approach, observing global initiatives and leveraging common technology, standards and service providers where practical.

This was particularly relevant given many Australian clearing participants operate globally and may already be investing in digital-asset infrastructure elsewhere.

Greater interoperability and alignment with global approaches could therefore reduce the implementation burden for participants.
