

CHES Public Roadmap Update Report of ASX Clear Pty Limited and ASX Settlement Pty Limited



June 2026



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1. Executive Summary

This CHESS Roadmap Report has been produced to provide ongoing visibility of the updates to the CHESS Roadmap since it was first published in [April 2023](#) and as subsequently updated in [2024](#) and [2025](#).

ASX Clear Pty Limited and ASX Settlement Pty Limited (referred to as either ASX Clear and ASX Settlement, or collectively, ASX) is in the process of replacing CHESS; the first release for clearing services went live in April 2026 and the second release for settlement and subregister services is planned to go live in 2029. As at end April 2026, following completion of the annual review process for updating the CHESS Roadmap, ASX confirms that:

- From a business as usual, build and change perspective, ASX continues to invest in supporting CHESS from a financial, technological and human capital perspective.
- Services provided by CHESS continue to operate within key performance indicators.
- The CHESS Roadmap has been updated to track and monitor six new initiatives.
- The current CHESS program of work has completed 42 CHESS Roadmap initiatives comprising:
 - All 27 initiatives in the April 2023 CHESS Roadmap
 - Five of the seven initiatives added to the CHESS Roadmap in 2024
 - 10 of the 15 new initiatives added to the CHESS Roadmap in 2025
- ASX will continue to undertake independent audit and assurance activities over the progress and completion of Roadmap initiatives.
- ASX will continue to provide appropriate transparency to regulators and market stakeholders through standard communication channels.

As a result of reviewing and updating the CHESS Roadmap, ASX confirms that:

- ASX considers that its existing governance, investment and management arrangements for CHESS are commensurate with its role in providing critical financial market infrastructure.
- ASX has and will continue to invest in and enhance CHESS to support the long-term interests of Australia's financial markets and meet applicable regulatory requirements, including the Financial Stability Standards (FSS). ASX has a program of work to enhance CHESS to ensure it remains operationally reliable until the new solution is implemented in its entirety.

2. Overview

2.1. Background and Objective

ASX Clear and ASX Settlement are licensed clearing and settlement facility licensees under Part 7.3 of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) (Corporations Act) and are wholly owned subsidiaries of ASX Limited. Under the Corporations Act, ASX Clear and ASX Settlement are required to, without limitation:

- comply with the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA's) FSS;
- have adequate arrangements for supervising the clearing and settlement facility;
- do all things necessary to reduce systemic risk to the extent that it is reasonably practicable to do so; and
- to the extent that it is reasonably practicable to do so, do all things necessary to ensure that the clearing and settlement facility's services are provided in a fair and effective way.

CHESS is the system used by ASX Clear and ASX Settlement to facilitate clearing, settlement and subregister services for the Australian cash equities market. It is a critical piece of national financial market infrastructure, enabling the management of clearing and settlement risks across the cash equities market. Accordingly, ASX, its customers and regulatory agencies need confidence in the continued performance, resilience and supportability of the CHESS system, including its ability to meet and comply with the FSS.

ASX is in the process of replacing CHESS with a product-based solution, Tata Consultancy Services' (TCS') BaNCS Market Infrastructure product, which offers a modular technology platform for clearing and settlement services.¹ The platform is being implemented in two main releases. Release 1 (clearing services) went live in April 2026. Following the go-live of Release 1, references to 'CHESS' include the TCS BaNCS clearing service and the settlement and subregister services of the existing system. Release 2 (settlement and subregister services) is planned to go live in 2029, with ASX's primary technology build targeted to conclude by the end of 2027.

While ASX continues to engage and work with the industry on the successful replacement of CHESS, important work continues to ensure the ongoing support and maintenance of CHESS. The objective of this program of work is to identify and implement various initiatives to ensure the safe and reliable operations of the CHESS system until it is safely replaced. Importantly, this work enables ASX to inform and provide timely updates to regulatory bodies on the status of CHESS, including ASX's management of risks associated with the supportability of the system. This report provides a summary of this work as at end April 2026.

2.2. Scope of the Report

The CHESS Roadmap continues to evolve as ASX identifies and addresses the risks associated with maintaining the operational reliability of CHESS. This report summarises CHESS Roadmap initiatives that have been completed from June 2025 to April 2026 inclusive (the eleven months since production of the last report), and outlines the revised CHESS Roadmap as at end April 2026 following the completion of the annual process of updating the CHESS Roadmap.

The initiatives in the updated CHESS Roadmap are categorised under three themes – Operations, Security and Continuity. Consistent with categorisation used in ASX's 2023 Special Report and 2024/2025 Roadmap Update Reports, the meaning of each is described below:

- **Operations** – how ASX will identify, assess, manage and monitor any risks to the resilience, reliability, integrity and security of CHESS; how ASX will ensure CHESS has the appropriate functionality and the safe and secure implementation of material changes; and how ASX will ensure the necessary upgrades to avoid technology obsolescence and ensure it can support the scalable capacity and performance of CHESS to accommodate current and future trading volumes.
- **Security** – how ASX will ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information and implement a system of security controls to ensure CHESS is resilient to unauthorised access of CHESS data or disruptions due to cyber events.
- **Continuity** – how ASX will implement, test and maintain continuity plans to ensure appropriate preparation for disruptions scenarios, including regular backup and recovery, and resources that are required to engage with such plans are across the training and familiar with their responsibilities.

For the purposes of this report, initiatives are categorised using a letter-number system, with Operations initiatives categorised as O, Security initiatives categorised as S and Continuity initiatives categorised as C. The numbers are sequential. This categorisation system has been used consistently in ASX's 2023 Special Report and 2024/2025 Roadmap Update Reports.

The CHESS Roadmap as presented in this report includes new initiatives that have been identified as a result of the annual process. While the planning horizon for the CHESS Roadmap extends to 2032, the initiatives detailed in this report are defined

¹ For further information, refer to ASX's [website](#).

across FY26-28 in line with the annual process for updating the Roadmap.² ASX's ongoing assessment of existing and new risks associated with the continued supportability of CHESS will continue to inform decisions regarding new initiatives as required over time.

² Initiatives scheduled to commence across FY26-28, noting that completion of initiatives may extend beyond this time.

3. CHES Update

3.1. Contingency and Resiliency Uplift

While work continues on the second release to replace CHES, ASX is focused on uplifting the contingency and resiliency of CHES. This has included completing the below:

- **Resourcing:** A new resilience function, supplementing existing 24x7 application support arrangements for CHES and uplift of legacy skills.
- **Capacity and headroom:** Global section headroom increase and implementation of the first release (clearing services) of the new system, which provides increased performance and capacity through the new FIX Messaging Interface and changes to trade registration and clearing service components.
- **Independent assurance:** IBM independent expert review conducted.
- **System hardening and drills:** Release 1 clearing resilience, settlement protections, cyber fire drills and customer communications enhancements.
- **Operating model shift:** Operating and support model for clearing platform go-live, workforce transition plan and skills and capability uplift defined.

3.2. Current Performance of CHES

ASX recognises the importance of maintaining market confidence in the continued performance, resilience, security and supportability of CHES, including its ability to continue to meet the RBA’s FSS requirements. Over the last 10 years CHES has exceeded its target availability of 99.8%.³

Since the last Roadmap Update Report, and for YTD FY2026 (up to and including end-March 2026), CHES has operated against the key performance indicators and service level objectives noted below:

Table 1: Current Performance of CHES

Key performance indicator/service level objective	FY26 (as at end March 2026)
Target system availability	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHES – 99.80% • Trade Acceptance Service following Release 1 go-live – 99.95% 	Met. 100% availability for CHES.
No major incidents (as defined by ASX)	Met.
Disaster Recovery Testing – reported system disaster recovery tests failed or not completed within the prescribed timeframe	Met. Successful annual CHES disaster recovery test.

ASX management regularly monitors key performance indicators to assess the need to improve the operational capacity and performance of CHES until it is safely replaced.

³ Availability is a metric defined as a percentage of accessibility of a business service to its users within agreed time windows. For the purposes of regulatory reporting, any unavailability is when the business service is unable to be used or accessed by users. For CHES the time window is 6.00am to 7.00pm Monday to Friday. ASX calculates system availability at the system level. The statistic cited is an average of the last 10 years.

4. CHESS Roadmap

4.1. Summary

The CHESS Roadmap defines the key initiatives to maintain and upgrade CHESS as necessary until it has been replaced. Initiatives are identified and monitored across three themes: Operations, Security and Continuity. Governance based initiatives are delivered through business-as-usual activities and are not depicted on the CHESS Roadmap.

In April **2023**, ASX published the first iteration of the CHESS Roadmap which contained 27 initial initiatives linked to specific CHESS risks including Reliability, Availability, Resourcing, IT Asset, Compliance, Performance, Capacity and Security. Since this time, ASX has continued to undertake important work to manage risks and ensure CHESS remains operationally reliable until the new clearing and settlement system is implemented. As at end April 2026, this work includes the completion of all 27 initiatives in the April 2023 CHESS Roadmap scheduled for delivery across FY23 to FY25.

In **2024**, following the evaluation of current CHESS risks and the completion of existing business planning processes, ASX updated the CHESS Roadmap to include seven new initiatives scheduled for delivery across FY24 to FY26. As at end April 2026, ASX has completed five of those seven initiatives. Of the remaining two initiatives, one has an indicative completion date of July 2026 and one has been transferred from the CHESS Roadmap.

In **2025**, again following the evaluation of current CHESS risks, the completion of existing business planning processes, as well as assessment in light of the December 2024 CHESS Batch Settlement incident,⁴ ASX updated the CHESS Roadmap to include 15 new initiatives scheduled for delivery across FY25 to FY27. As at end April 2026, ASX has completed 10 of those 15 initiatives, and one has been transferred from the CHESS Roadmap. The remaining four inflight initiatives have indicative completion dates ranging from July 2026 to June 2028. Of the 10 initiatives that were added to the CHESS Roadmap following the CHESS Batch Settlement incident, ASX has completed nine, with the remaining one initiative scheduled for completion in July 2026.

In **2026**, again following the evaluation of current CHESS risks and the completion of existing business planning processes, ASX updated the CHESS Roadmap to include six new initiatives scheduled for delivery across FY26 to FY28 (one of which is in progress).

The ongoing assessment of existing CHESS risks, and any new CHESS risks, will continue to inform decisions regarding new initiatives as required over time. The CHESS Roadmap will continue to evolve beyond FY28 and will be updated annually to provide visibility over any required support and maintenance activities until 2032, or such time as the CHESS system is replaced.

Table 2: Summary of CHESS Roadmap Initiatives

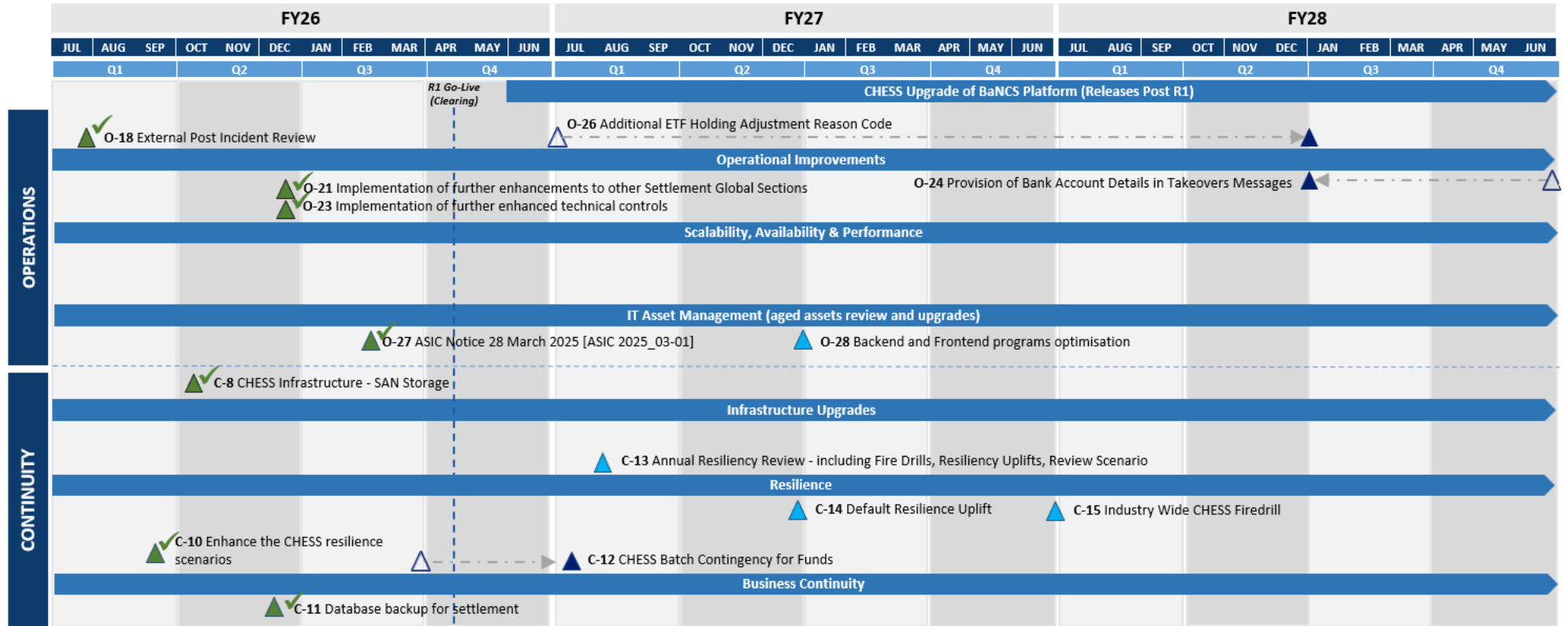
CHESS Roadmap (as at end April 2026)	2023 Roadmap initiatives	2024 Roadmap initiatives	2025 Roadmap initiatives	2026 Roadmap initiatives	Initiatives Total	Completed Total	Transferred Total	Outstanding Total
Operations	16	-	11	2	29	(24)	(1)	4
Security	4	3	1	1	9	(6)	-	3
Continuity	7	4	3	3	17	(12)	(1)	4
TOTAL	27	7	15	6	55	(42)	(2)	11

Please note that details of all Security initiatives, and certain Operational and Continuity initiatives, have not been depicted in this document due to commercial sensitivity.

⁴ For more information on the incident, refer to ASX's [CHESS Batch Settlement Incident Review](#), and ASX's [2025 CHESS Roadmap Update Report](#).

4.2. FY26-28 CHES Roadmap

Figure 1: FY26-FY28 CHES Roadmap



NOTES:

The dates presented in this Roadmap are indicative only.

Risk & Governance based initiatives have not been depicted in the above roadmap as they are considered ongoing and business as usual in nature.

42 Roadmap items have been completed to date (FY23, FY24, FY25 and FY26). The following initiatives were completed in June 2025 and are not depicted on this Roadmap: O-20 and O-22.

C-9 CHES Frontend & Backend Hardware and O-25 CMM: Intraday Margin Call have been transferred from the CHES Roadmap.

- ▲✓ Completed
- ▲ Inflight / Planned
- ▲ New Initiative

4.3. Completed Initiatives

The table below provides a summary of the 11 existing roadmap initiatives completed over the report period (June 2025 to April 2026 inclusive). Refer to ASX's historical CHESS Roadmap Update Reports for details of initiatives completed prior to June 2025.

Table 3: Completed Roadmap Initiatives

Pillar	ID	Status	Completion Date	Initiative Name	Description
Operations					
Operations	O-18	Completed	Jul 25	External Post Incident Review	Participants engagement to provide a plan to address any improvement initiatives and actions.
Operations	O-20	Completed	Jun 25	Business verification of other Settlement Global Sections	Detailed analysis of three identified areas using Settlement Global Sections to identify whether changes are required.
Operations	O-21	Completed	Dec 25	Implementation of further enhancements to other Settlement Global Sections	Implementation of further enhancements following the detailed analysis of three identified areas using Settlement Global Sections.
Operations	O-22	Completed	Jun 25	Complete review for other enhanced technical controls	Review if there are any further areas of the CHESS system that require enhanced technical controls.
Operations	O-23	Completed via O-21	Dec 25	Implementation of further enhanced technical controls	Implementation of enhanced technical controls.
Operations	O-27	Completed	Feb 26	ASIC Notice 28 March 2025 [ASIC 2025_03-01]	Appointment of an approved expert and provision of an expert report to ASIC per the terms of ASIC letter dated 28 March 2025.
Continuity					
Continuity	C-8	Completed	Oct 25	CHESS Infrastructure - SAN Storage	The work on this initiative is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide additional disk capacity expansion options.
Continuity	C-10	Completed	Sep 25	Enhance the CHESS resilience scenarios	Review CHESS resilience scenarios for all mission critical processes. Update and enhance CHESS resilience scenarios as required post review.
Continuity	C-11	Completed	Dec 25	Database backup for settlement	Database backup: additional snapshots during batch settlement process.

In addition, two initiatives have been transferred from the CHES Roadmap:

Table 4: Transferred Roadmap Initiatives

Pillar	ID	Status	Completion Date	Initiative Name	Description
Operations					
Operations	O-25	Transferred	Dec 26	CMM: Intraday Margin Call	Enhancement to ASX Clear's capacity to monitor the build-up of current exposures to participants and to make intraday margin calls to participants.
Continuity					
Continuity	C-9	Transferred	Nov 26	CHES Frontend and Backend Hardware	This is a monitoring item on the roadmap with a check point in December 2025. There are specific triggers to initiate a re-platforming of CHES frontend and backend hardware.

4.4. Inflight (Planned and In Progress) Initiatives

As at end April 2026, the CHES Roadmap includes five existing inflight initiatives to maintain and upgrade CHES.

The table below contains details of those inflight initiatives (i.e. planned and in-progress) that have been added to the CHES Roadmap in prior years and are yet to be completed.

Table 5: Inflight (i.e. Planned and In Progress) Roadmap Initiatives

Pillar	ID	Status	Completion Date	Initiative Name	Description
Operations					
Operations	O-24	Planned	Dec 27	Provision of Bank Account Details in Takeover Messages	Enhancement to transmit bank account information from the sponsoring broker to the registry in relation to bid offers.
Operations	O-26	Planned	Dec 27	Additional ETF Holding Adjustment Reason Code	Introduce an additional reason code ("ETF"), to support ETF creation and redemption flows.
Continuity					
Continuity	C-12	In progress	Jul 26	CHES Batch Contingency for Funds	Development of additional reports for batch settlement, to support faster remediation of settlement during the CHES Batch Settlement process. In addition, changes to update data to feed into resumption of CHES Batch Settlement processing in the event of a contingency were also developed.

4.5. New Initiatives

The table below contains new initiatives that have been added to the CHES Roadmap as part of the 2026 annual update. The new initiatives are a result of an assessment of current CHES risks and existing business processes, and are scheduled to commence across FY26-28.

The CHES Roadmap has also been updated to incorporate the outcomes of the independent expert review conducted by IBM. This ensures the roadmap continues to reflect a risk-based and proportionate program of work to support the safe and reliable operation of CHES until system replacement.

In addition to the new initiatives listed below, following the go-live of Release 1 (clearing services), ASX is also planning for ongoing CHES upgrades as required over time.

Table 6: New 2026 Roadmap Initiatives

Pillar	ID	Status	Completion Date	Initiative Name	Description
Operations					
Operations	O-28	Planned	Dec 26	Backend and Frontend programs optimisation	Performance improvements on backend and frontend CHES program suite.
Continuity					
Continuity	C-13	New and in progress	Jul 26	Annual Resiliency Review – including Fire Drills, Resiliency Uplifts, Review Scenario	Introduce a formal Annual Resilience Review process to strengthen operational readiness and ensure our systems, teams and processes are prepared for unexpected disruptions.
Continuity	C-14	Planned	Dec 26	Default Resilience Uplift	Improve ASX and industry operational resilience and preparedness for payments related aspects of the CHES batch settlement process.
Continuity	C-15	Planned	Jun 27	Industry Wide CHES Firedrill	Industry-wide cyber security fire-drill for CHES, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validate the industry’s ability to respond to, recover from and resume operations following a severe but plausible cyber security incident. • Deepen understanding of impacts across the various exercise participants. • Assess the effectiveness of response and recovery processes, including communications, coordination and manual fallback arrangements, across the ecosystem.

4.6. CHES Governance and Assurance

4.6.1. CHES Governance

The [CHES Governance Statement](#), which was last updated in November 2025, provides a guide to the governance framework that applies to CHES. It is intended to help stakeholders understand the roles and responsibilities of the different ASX governance forums relevant to CHES, including the CHES Roadmap and the delivery of the CHES Project.

4.6.2. CHES Roadmap Assurance

ASX continues to undertake assurance activities over the CHES Roadmap via ASX internal audit and/or independent external audits.

There is an ongoing assurance program regarding the completion (or non-completion) of each of the identified initiatives to ensure the initiatives are meeting their risk objectives. Over the report period the assurance program was designed to provide ASX assurance that the initiatives are delivering the desired scope and benefits stated in each work item.

4.6.3. CHES Assurance

ASX engages external auditors on an annual basis to provide an ASAE 3402 Assurance Report on Controls at a Service Organisation for CHES. The FY25 (1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025) report is published [here](#). ASX anticipates publishing the FY26 report in July 2026.