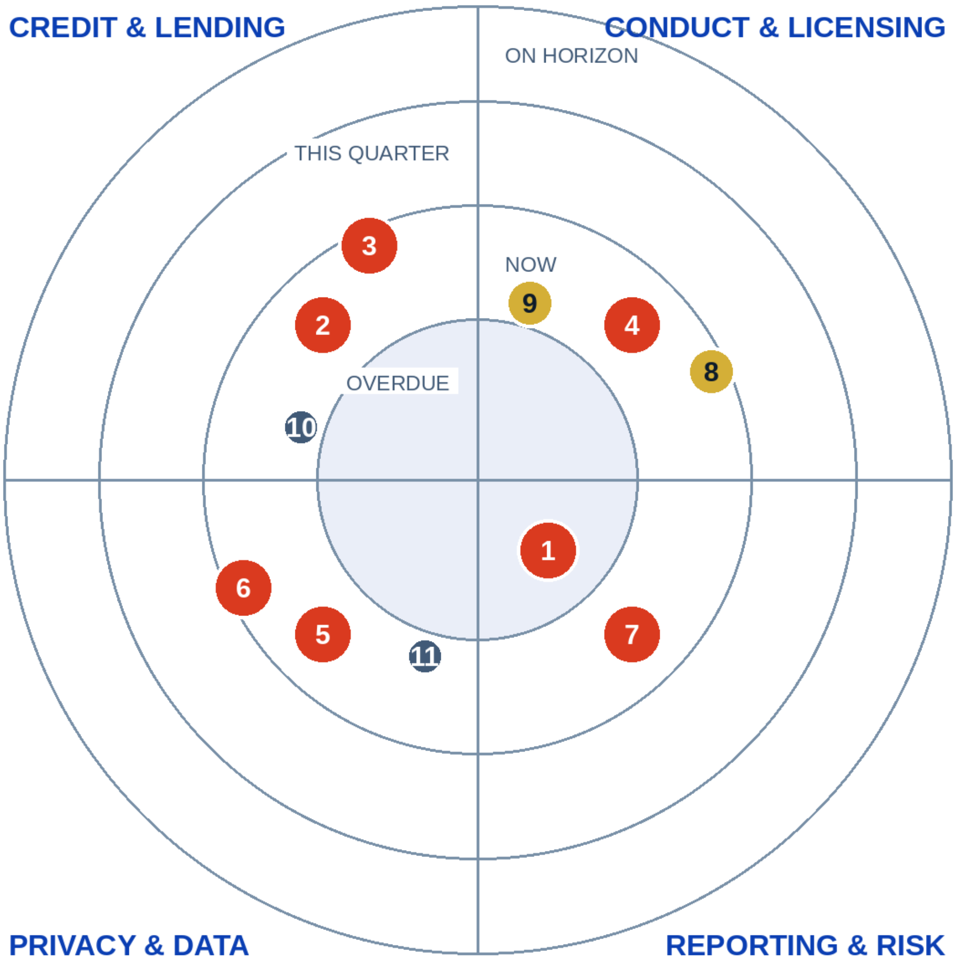
DARK ARTS
EVENT HORIZON

REGULATORY RADAR
AUSTRALIAN LENDERS & FINANCE COMPANIES
JULY-AUGUST 2026

What's moving on the horizon for these firms and what it quietly breaks.

LEAD SIGNALS

ASIC has been reading lending files at scale: $55m in compensation over offset accounts that were never properly linked, 350,000 car loans reviewed across eight lenders, and broker files now under the same lens. Behind them sit APRA's lodgement cutover on 30 September, a breach reporting penalty and DDO stop orders that bind every licensee, and privacy determinations on insider access and tracking pixels.



ANGLE = CATEGORY · DISTANCE FROM CENTRE = WHEN IT BITES · SIZE & COLOUR = SEVERITY

1 **REPORTING & RISK** · OVERDUE **HIGH**

The old reporting route is closing

WHO: finance companies registered with APRA as RFCs, and any provider lodging on their behalf
WHAT: reporting workflows and third-party lodgement tooling still built for the alternate path
WHEN: liquidity returns cut over 31 July. EFS from 31 August. Everything else by 30 September
SOURCE: apra.gov.au

2 **CREDIT & LENDING** · NOW **HIGH**

350,000 car loans, one warning

WHO: vehicle finance lenders, broker and dealer networks, and collections teams
WHAT: distributor oversight, hardship workflows and fee disclosure that cannot show consumer outcomes
WHEN: REP 832 published across eight lenders. Enforcement flagged where obligations are not met.
SOURCE: asic.gov.au

Email "CHECK" to find out whether any of this touches your systems. Email "RADAR" to subscribe.

3 **CREDIT & LENDING** · NOW **HIGH**

$55m for unlinked accounts

WHO: mortgage brokers, aggregators and non-bank lenders whose customers rely on offset features

WHAT: origination and linking processes with nothing downstream watching whether the link held

WHEN: review of eight banks published 29 July. ASIC says all banks should check. Further compensation expected

SOURCE: asic.gov.au

4 **CONDUCT & LICENSING** · NOW **HIGH**

Late lodgements cost a licence

WHO: AFS and credit licensees with statutory audit and financial report lodgement obligations

WHAT: audit and lodgement deadline tracking that relies on someone remembering

WHEN: AFS licence suspended 17 July over unlodged reports. Lifted 3 August once they were filed

SOURCE: asic.gov.au

5 **PRIVACY & DATA** · NOW **HIGH**

Insider access just got expensive

WHO: lenders and brokers whose staff can browse applicant and account records beyond their role

WHAT: role based access controls and audit logging that cannot prove who viewed which account, and when

WHEN: determination made: compensation, apology, technical access controls and account level logging all ordered.

SOURCE: oaic.gov.au

6 **PRIVACY & DATA** · NOW **HIGH**

Tracking pixels triggered determinations

WHO: lenders and brokers running third-party pixels on application, quote or hardship pages

WHAT: consent mechanisms and data flows quietly shipping sensitive signals to advertising platforms

WHEN: determinations made. The OAIC has told every APP entity to review its pixels.

SOURCE: oaic.gov.au

7 **REPORTING & RISK** · NOW **HIGH**

$10.3m for unreported investigations

WHO: credit and AFS licensees under the reportable situations regime, including non-bank lenders and brokers

WHAT: breach identification and escalation systems that let investigations go unreported or late

WHEN: penalty ordered by the Federal Court. Trustee accountability is a named 2026 priority.

SOURCE: asic.gov.au

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8 **CONDUCT & LICENSING** · NOW **MEDIUM**

Broker files are being read

WHO: mortgage broker licensees, aggregators and advice businesses under the best interests duty

WHAT: recommendation records and complaints handling that cannot show the reasoning behind each loan

WHEN: thematic review underway now, with findings to be published later this year

SOURCE: asic.gov.au

9 **CONDUCT & LICENSING** · NOW **MEDIUM**

Stop orders over target markets

WHO: lenders and brokers issuing credit products with target market determinations under DDO

WHAT: target market determinations that drift from what the product actually is: objectives, liquidity, holding period

WHEN: interim stop orders issued. Private credit products remain in the spotlight.

SOURCE: asic.gov.au

10 **CREDIT & LENDING** · NOW **LOW**

Credit reporting scope just narrowed

WHO: credit providers with mandatory credit reporting obligations

WHAT: data extraction rules and reporting configurations still submitting the newly exempt account category

WHEN: in force 9 June 2026. Relief now runs to 1 October 2031.

SOURCE: legislation.gov.au

11 **PRIVACY & DATA** · NOW **LOW**

Company search gets an API

WHO: lenders and brokers doing company checks in onboarding, KYC or credit assessment

WHAT: brittle ASIC Connect lookups and scraped registry data, which now have a supported replacement

WHEN: public beta live, part of the RegistryConnect modernisation programme.

SOURCE: asic.gov.au

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