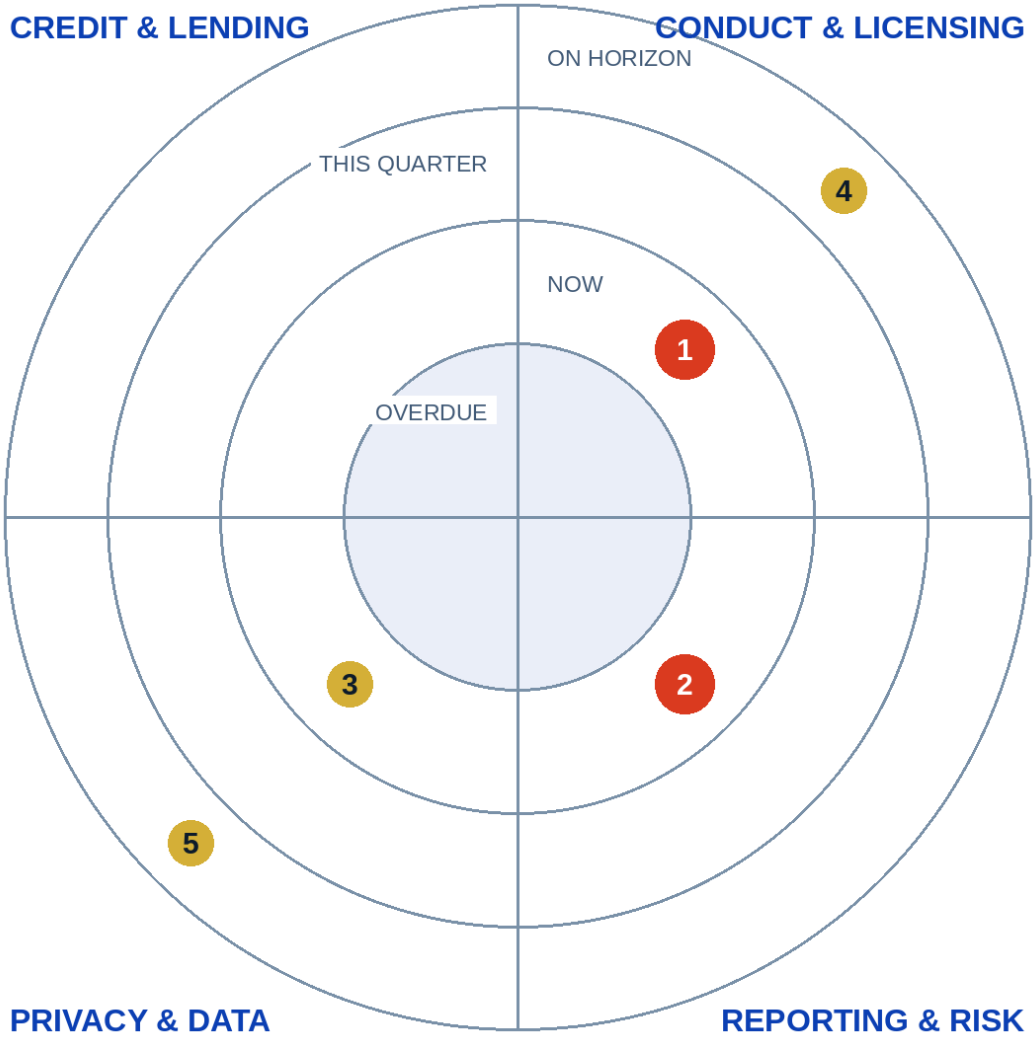
DARK ARTS
EVENT HORIZON

REGULATORY RADAR
AUSTRALIAN BANKS
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2026

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

LEAD SIGNALS

APRA put two banks under licence conditions within weeks of each other: one without a reliable view of its obligations and controls, one with a liquidity ratio overstated for years. Both banks were financially sound.



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

1 CONDUCT & LICENSING · NOW HIGH

Licence conditions over a risk framework

WHO: banks and mutuals under APRA's risk management standards

WHAT: obligations registers and controls inventories that cannot show every obligation and who controls it

WHEN: Conditions imposed 18 August: a rectification program, an independent assurer and board attestation. The $50m capital add-on stays.

SOURCE: apra.gov.au

2 REPORTING & RISK · NOW HIGH

$50m add-on for a ratio error

WHO: banks, mutuals and other ADIs calculating liquidity and prudential returns

WHAT: regulatory calculations that nobody re-derives independently from source data

WHEN: Licence conditions imposed 3 September. Years of miscalculation overstated the ratio, at times hiding breaches of the minimum.

SOURCE: apra.gov.au

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3 **PRIVACY & DATA** · NOW **MEDIUM**

Regulators want AI cyber plans tested

WHO: banks and mutuals under APRA's operational risk and security standards

WHAT: incident playbooks, escalation paths and third-party maps never tested at the speed of AI-enabled attacks

WHEN: Board checklist published. APRA and ASIC point to existing standards, so the test is evidence, not new rules.

SOURCE: apra.gov.au

4 **CONDUCT & LICENSING** · ON HORIZON **MEDIUM**

Scam complaints get an external referee

WHO: banks designated under the scams framework, from complaints teams to IDR

WHAT: complaint systems that cannot tag scam cases or show what the bank did to prevent, detect and respond

WHEN: AFCA takes scam complaints from 31 March 2027. ASIC's oversight guidance is proposed, not final; comments close 24 November.

SOURCE: asic.gov.au

5 **PRIVACY & DATA** · ON HORIZON **MEDIUM**

Company register access is being tiered

WHO: banks onboarding business customers and verifying officeholders

WHAT: KYC, credit and collections workflows that pull director details from open register searches

WHEN: Proposed, not final. Consultation closed 12 October; new access settings planned from 1 July 2027, fully in place by 1 August 2028.

SOURCE: asic.gov.au

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