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**A Commonwealth Bank spokesman:**

*“AAP plays an important role in supporting financial literacy by making factual business and economics reporting available to communities across Australia through more than 400 news outlets, including many in regional Australia.*

*“We believe there is public value in more accessible, independent financial and economic information for Australian households and small businesses.*

*“AAP operates under a rigorous Charter of Editorial Independence. Our association with AAP respects and complies with that Charter and CBA is not involved in AAP’s editorial decisions.”*