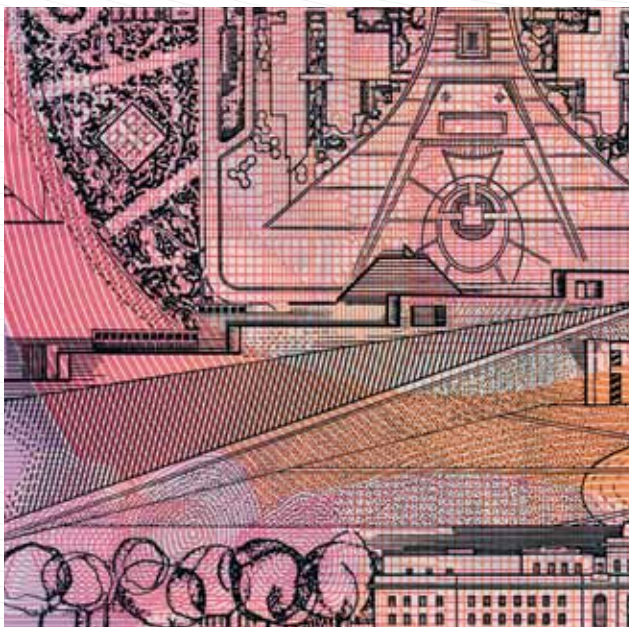


Australia's banknotes represented a world first in currency manufacturing – they were the first full series to be printed on polymer (plastic). Polymer banknote technology was developed in Australia, jointly by the Reserve Bank and the CSIRO. The reason for introducing polymer banknotes was simple – to keep one step ahead of counterfeiters by making Australia's banknotes more secure. Polymer banknotes have the added benefit of being more durable than paper banknotes which, in turn, makes them more cost-effective.

The designs of the banknotes celebrate the diversity of Australia's social, cultural and scientific achievements.

The \$5 polymer banknote was the first in the complete series to be issued, on 7 July 1992.



Dealing with suspect banknotes

It is an offence to knowingly possess counterfeits. Suspect banknotes should be given to State or Federal police.

If you have concerns about a banknote, you are within your rights to refuse to accept it.

If you suspect a banknote is counterfeit:

- Handle it as little as possible.
- Note relevant information, such as how it came into your possession.
- Report the matter immediately to the police.

Do not take actions that may jeopardise your safety or the safety of others.

If the suspect banknote is found to be genuine, you will receive full value for it.

AUSTRALIA'S BANKNOTES



AUSTRALIA'S BANKNOTES

\$5 banknote

What's on the \$5 banknote

A portrait of Queen Elizabeth II is shown on the front of the \$5 banknote together with a sprig of eucalyptus. The portrait is drawn from photographs commissioned by the Reserve Bank in 1984. The Queen gave approval to use this portrait on an Australian banknote in 1988, and it appeared on the first \$5 polymer banknote on 7 July 1992.

The back of the banknote features the Old and New Parliament Houses, which were opened in 1927 and 1988, respectively. The images are the designer's interpretation of various architectural drawings and photographs.

Above the images of the Old and New Parliament Houses is a plan of the New Parliament House. This was based on the Design Development Landscape Plan, which was provided by the Parliament House Construction Authority.

Did you know?

Three \$5 polymer banknote designs have been issued since 1992. The first was considered too pale and some people found it difficult to distinguish from the \$10 banknote so a brighter version was issued in 1995. A commemorative \$5 banknote celebrating the Centenary of Federation was issued in 2001.

Did you know?

The geometric patterns on the back of the \$5 banknote are based on architectural features of the New Parliament House. The patterns represent the entrance to the ministerial wing, the skylight in the Members Hall and the skylight in the Main Committee Room.

Is your banknote genuine?

- Always check a range of security features – don't rely on only one or two.
- It can be useful to compare a suspect banknote with one you know is genuine. Look for differences.
- All Australian banknotes have similar security features, though their location can vary.

1. Feel the banknote

Australian banknotes are printed on plastic and have a distinct feel. The dark printing is produced with a special raised ink that can be felt with your finger.

2. Check the clear window

The clear window should be part of the banknote and not an addition. Check that the white image of a stylised gum flower printed on the window cannot be easily rubbed off.

3. Look for the star

Diamond-shaped patterns are printed inside a circle on each side of the banknote. When the banknote is held up to the light, the patterns should line up perfectly to form a seven-pointed star.

4. Check the shadow image

A hidden image of the Australian Coat of Arms to the left of the Queen's portrait can be seen when the banknote is held up to the light.

5. Look for the microprinting

Under a magnifying glass you will see tiny, clearly defined words that read 'FIVE DOLLARS' on the top left corner of the \$5 banknote.



Actual banknote dimensions: 65 mm x 130 mm (images not to scale)

Examine the plastic

It is difficult to start a tear along the edge of a genuine banknote. You can also try scrunching it in your hand – a genuine banknote should spring back when you release it.

Check the print quality

The background printing should be sharp. Check for irregularities such as less clearly defined patterns, thicker or thinner lines, or colour differences.

Look at the banknote under UV light

The serial number on a genuine banknote will glow under ultraviolet light, along with a square patch. The rest of the banknote should not glow under this light.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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8.30 am – 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday

Email: banknotes@rba.gov.au

Website: banknotes.rba.gov.au