BUY NOW, PRAY LATER

SOLVING FOR COMMERCIAL SUSTAINABILITY IN ASIA PACIFIC'S BNPL INDUSTRY



SECTION 1

APAC CONSUMER FINANCE DYNAMICS

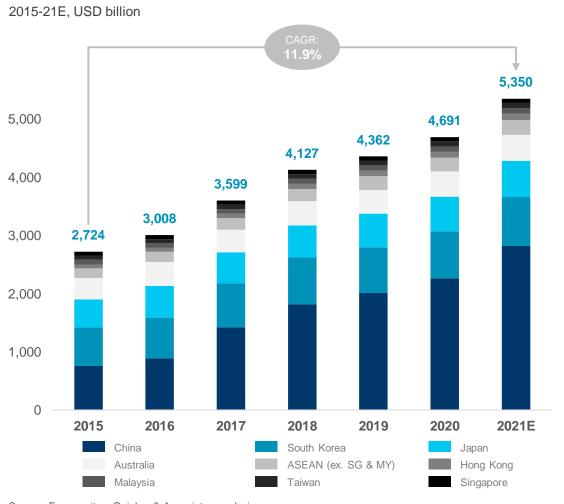




APAC CONSUMER FINANCE MARKET

Buoyed by years of robust economic growth and booming household consumption, the Asia Pacific ("APAC") consumer finance market has grown rapidly in recent years

Consumer Finance Market



KEY GROWTH DRIVERS



Economic Growth

Rapid economic growth results in a more confident population that is willing to purchase on credit



Growing Middle Class

Individuals with rising status borrow to finance purchases to align with higher living standards



Rising Internet Penetration

Strong internet coverage enables delivery of credit products in a scalable manner



New Product Development

Credit providers are developing new products to address nuanced needs of the local populace

Source: Euromonitor, Quinlan & Associates analysis



INCUMBENT SOLUTION PAIN POINTS

Despite strong historical demand, traditional consumer finance products have drawn increased criticism and negative publicity from both consumers and merchants alike

Pain Points

Consumer Finance



POOR EXPERIENCE

Consumers typically need to apply at branches, with considerable waiting time for loan application / approval



COMPLEX APPLICATIONS

Traditional products require consumers to furnish a number of paper-based documents, with high rejection rates



HIGH INTEREST & FEES

Traditional products typically charge high interest rates, together with a plethora of hidden fees and charges









LOW CONVERSION RATES

Traditional credit products do not drive conversion across consumer numbers and purchase rates for merchants



STATIC ORDER VALUES

Consumers are not incentivised to increase order values through traditional credit products



NO MARKETING SUPPORT

Lack of concrete partnerships result in merchants being unable to capitalise on products being offered

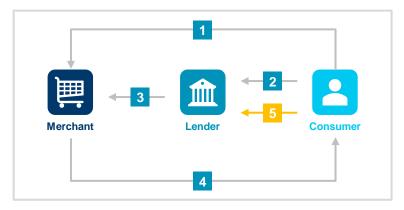


BUY NOW PAY LATER

Recognising the limitations of incumbent solutions, various alternative consumer finance solutions have emerged – the most notable one being Buy Now Pay Later ("BNPL")

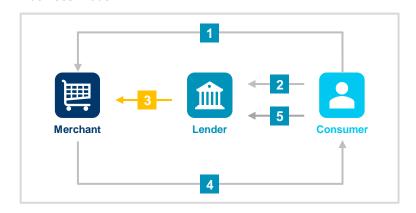
Traditional Consumer Finance

Business Model



- 1 Consumer buys goods from the Merchant's catalogue
- 2 Consumer applies for credit / loan from the Lender
- 3 Lender pays the total transaction value to the Merchant
- 4 Merchant confirms payment and delivers goods to the Consumer
- 5 Consumer repays principal plus interest to the Lender, via instalments

BNPL Business Model



- 1 Consumer buys goods from the Merchant's catalogue
- 2 Consumer applies for credit from and pays down payment to the Lender
- 3 Lender pays purchase amount, with MDR deducted, to the Merchant
- 4 Merchant confirms payment and delivers goods to the Consumer
- 5 Consumer repays principal to the Lender, via instalments

Lenders monetise consumers via interest charges and / or processing / transaction fees



Lenders monetise merchants via an MDR for driving additional marketing and sales

SECTION 2

THE BNPL LANDSCAPE



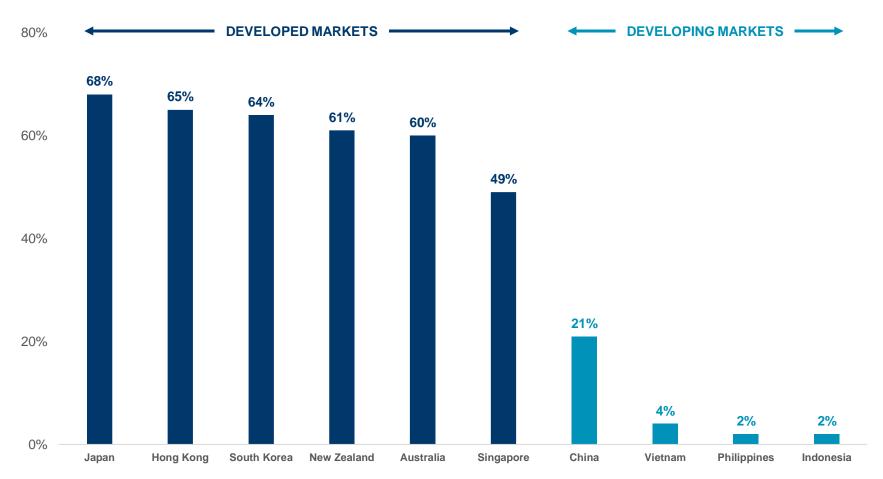


DISTINCT CREDIT INDUSTRY DYNAMICS

BNPL players in the region have markedly different positioning, largely reflecting the divergent consumer credit industry dynamics across APAC

Credit Card Ownership





Source: Statista, Quinlan & Associates analysis

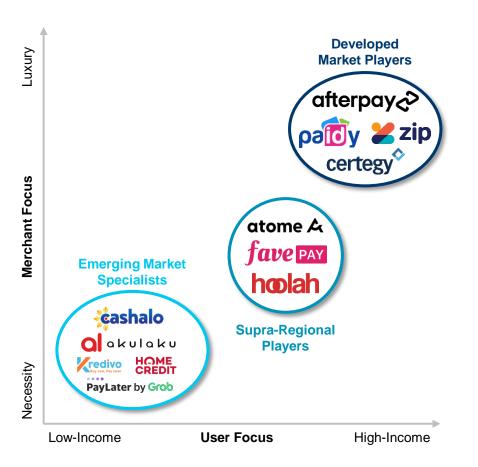


APAC BNPL LANDSCAPE

Due to the heterogenous nature of the APAC market, BNPL providers operating in the region offer very distinct value propositions

APAC BNPL

Industry Landscape



1

Developed Market Players

Developed market players operate in countries where the population is highly banked, with larger disposable incomes

2

Supra-Regional Players

Supra-regional players typically operate in more developed Asian markets, such as Singapore, Hong Kong, and Malaysia

3

Emerging Market Specialists

Emerging market specialists operate primarily in ASEAN countries, where most of the population is unbanked

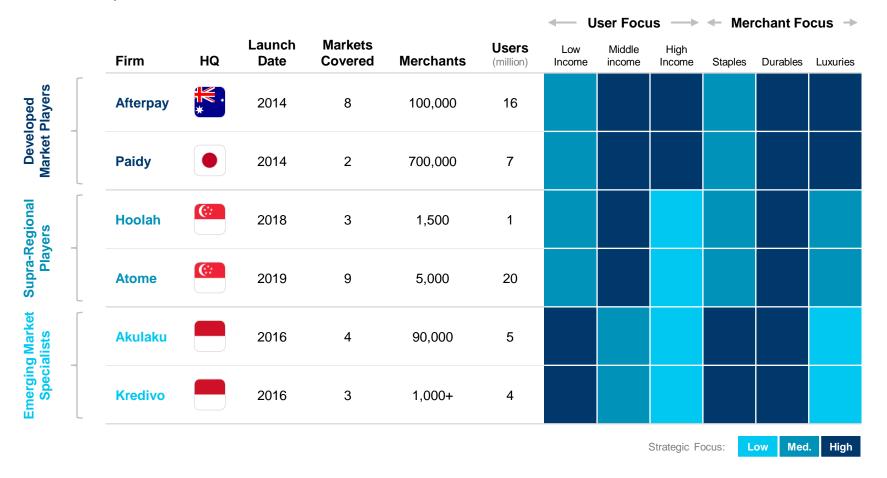


SELECTED BNPL EXAMPLES

BNPL companies' target users (across income levels) and partner merchants (across merchant positioning) reflect their industry positioning

APAC BNPL

Selected Examples





BNPL PLAYER DIFFERENTIATION

In addition to target users and merchants, BNPL players can be differentiated across three dimensions: (1) service model, (2) offering, and (3) funding



¹ Investors provide capital for business admin., ops., and expansion; and BNPL companies separately seek capital to fund the extension of consumer credit Source: Crunchbase, annual reports, press releases, industry interviews, Quinlan & Associates analysis

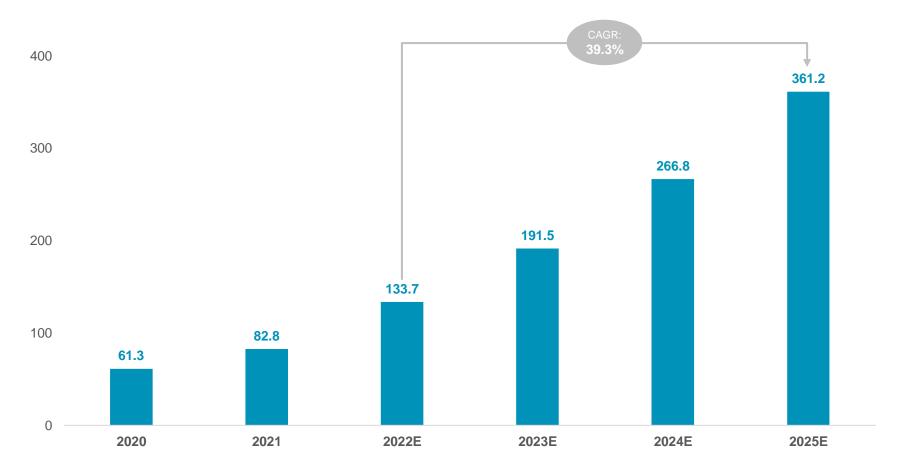


INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

Presenting an attractive channel for credit access, the BNPL industry is expected to grow rapidly, with gross merchandise value forecast to reach USD 361 billion by 2025

APAC BNPL GMV

2020-26E, USD billion



SECTION 3

INDUSTRY CHALLENGES



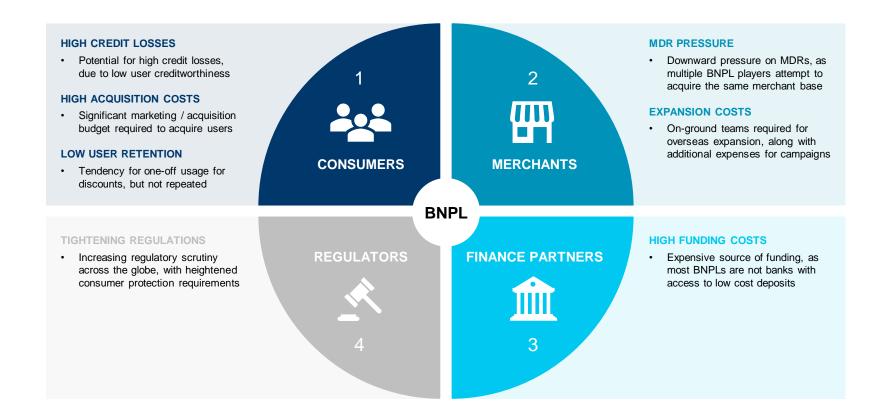


INDUSTRY CHALLENGES

Despite strong industry growth, BNPL players are facing challenges on a number of fronts, with pressure being felt across each of their key stakeholder groups

Industry Challenges

APAC BNPL



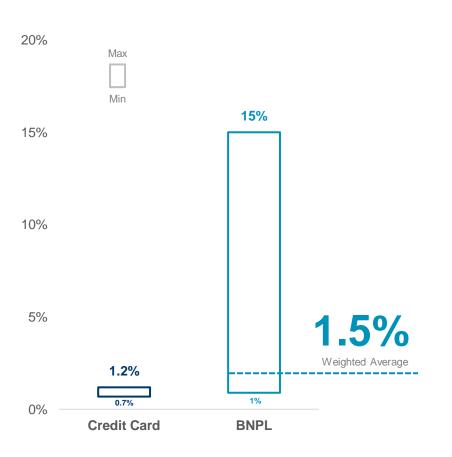


CREDIT LOSS (1/2) – DELINQUENCY RATES

BNPL offers consumers easier access to financing, which inevitably results in adverse selection, reflecting consumers' generally weaker credit profiles and/or higher credit risks

Delinquency Rates

APAC Developed Markets



BNPL Delinquency Drivers



Adverse Selection

BNPL firms typically target lower income consumers who are a higher credit risk / have weaker credit profiles



KYC / Credit Assessment

BNPL firms conduct basic KYC checks and their credit scoring engines can fail to adequately assess user risk profiles



Impulse Purchase

BNPL drives impulse consumption, which may result in purchase amounts higher than the user's ability to repay



Delinquency Repercussions

BNPL firms can only freeze accounts, and so there are no further consequences to deter users from defaulting

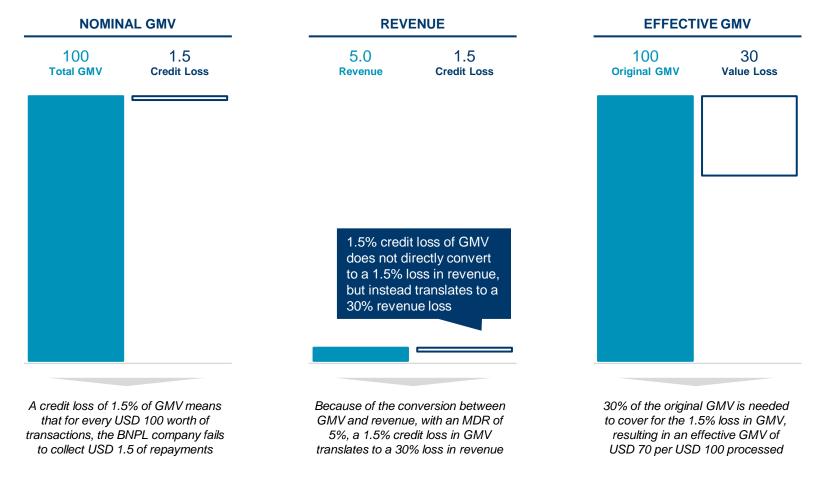


CREDIT LOSS (2/2) – CREDIT LOSS COVERAGE

Delinquency translates to lower repayment, decreasing the amount of capital available; as such, BNPL firms need to process more transactions to cover for the capital lost

Credit Loss Coverage

Indexed



HIGH USER ACQUISITION COSTS

BNPL companies spend considerable sums on marketing and offer significant discounts to acquire users, driving sizeable losses during early years of scaling



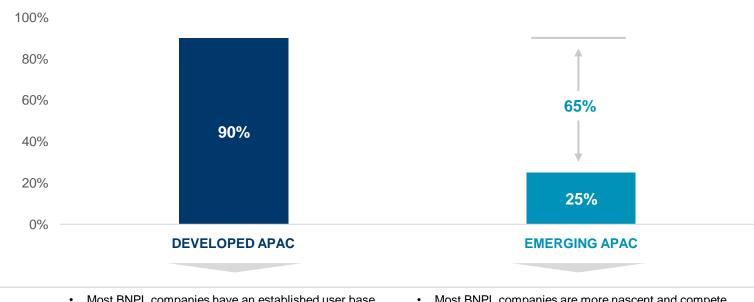


LOW USER RETENTION

While such incentives help to drive rapid user acquisition, consumer uptake is not translating to meaningful retention rates for many firms, especially in emerging APAC

GMV from Repeated Users

%



BNPL Focus

- Most BNPL companies have an established user base and focus on retaining customers through loyalty programmes and repeat usage-based discounts
- Most BNPL companies are more nascent and compete aggressively to acquire new users, typically through extensive marketing campaigns and first-time discounts

User Behaviour

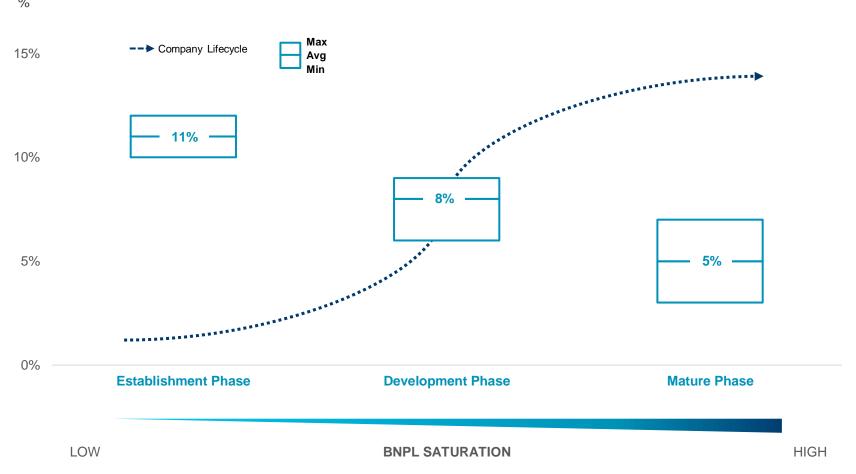
- Customers are aware of the BNPL offering and many have experience using it. As such, they are more willing to use the BNPL solutions on a recurring basis
- Most customers are new to BNPL and use the service only for the initial discounts, reverting to traditional credit channels if no loyalty rewards are offered



MDR PRESSURE

As a growing number of providers have entered the industry, we have seen ongoing merchant discount rate ("MDR") compression across the region





Source: industry interviews, Quinlan & Associates analysis



HIGH MERCHANT ACQUISITION COSTS

BNPL firms have invested considerable sums building in-house business development and sales teams to support merchant acquisition, which is extremely expensive

Team Set-Up

Merchant Acquisition





FUNDING COSTS

BNPL companies need capital to finance credit extension, incurring financing costs and exposing many players on-balance sheet credit risks, which is a key drag on valuation

Credit Extension Funding

Funding Nature

		FUNDING SOURCE			CREDIT RISK			
FUNDING NATURE		Alternatives (PE / VC)	Financial Institutions	Private Investors	Mass Retail	On Bal. Sheet	Off Bal. Sheet	PORTION
Debt Financing	Investors loan money to BNPL firms, with a specified maturity and fixed interest rate (lower than the MDR charged), to be used for credit extension to end customers	√	√	√		✓		Ш
Equity Financing	Investors invest in BNPL companies, with an understanding that the capital will be used directly for credit extension to end customers	√		√		✓		■0000
Investment Product	BNPL companies receive funding through structured products or credit platforms, with customisable terms depending on investor risk appetite and return expectations	√		√	✓	✓	✓	
Bank Deposits	BNPL companies can establish retail banks or retail banks can offer BNPL services, using consumer deposits as a low cost source of funding to extend credit				✓	✓		■0000
Partner Distribution	BNPL companies act as a distribution channel for players already operating in the consumer credit industry to access additional customers (i.e. BNPL users)		~				✓	
		✓ Applica	able					Low High

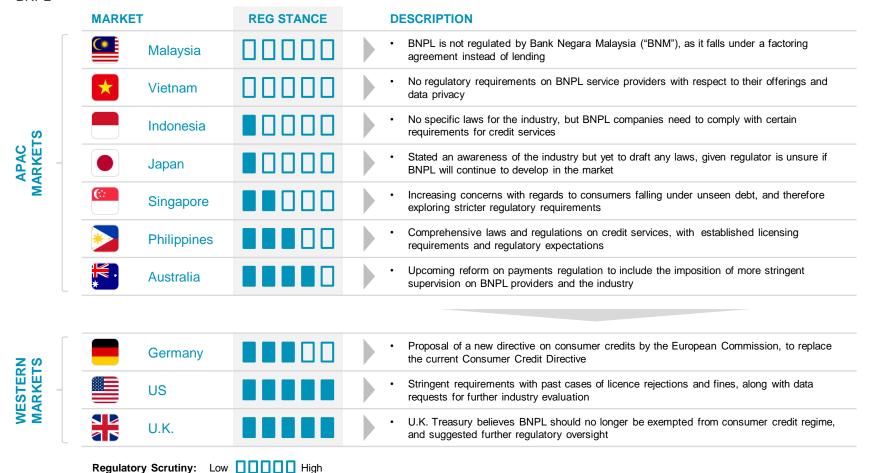


REGULATIONS ON BNPL

While regional regulators have been slower to respond to BNPL, we anticipate regulatory requirements across APAC to catch up to Western markets in coming years

Regulations

BNPL



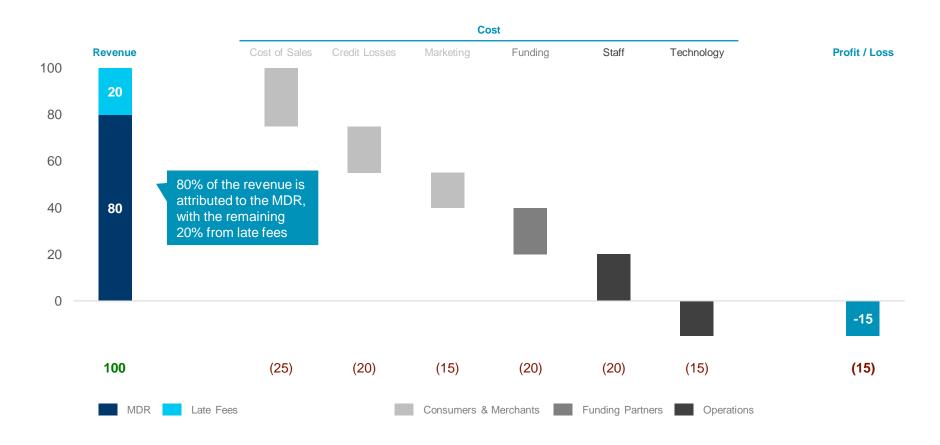


FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (1/2) - DEVELOPED MARKET PLAYERS

Suffering from pressure on multiple fronts, BNPL firms in the region are struggling to turn a profit, with developed market players suffer from a -15% (negative) profit margin...

Financial Performance

Developed Market Players, Indexed (to Revenue)





FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (2/2) - EMERGING MARKET SPECIALISTS

...with many emerging market specialists suffering from negative profit margins of 100%+

Financial Performance

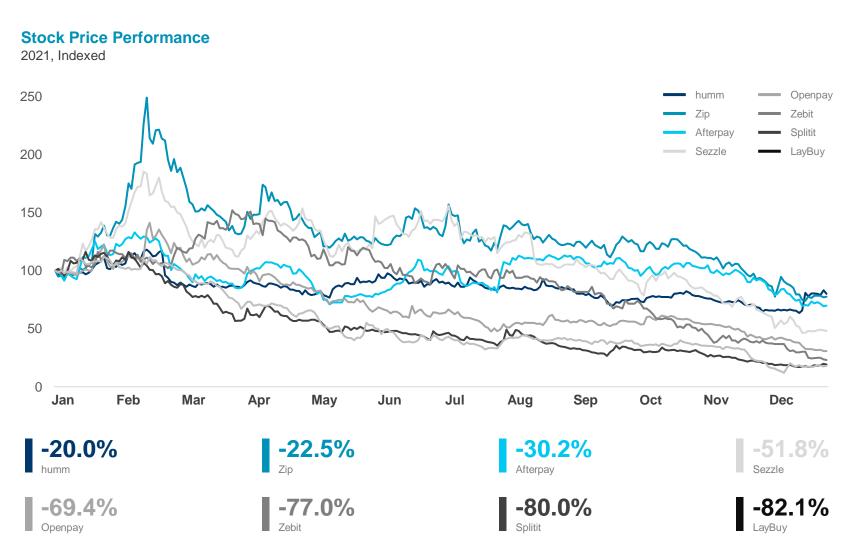
Emerging Market Specialists, Indexed (to Revenue)





STOCK PRICE PERFORMANCE

Recognising the challenges of operating an unsustainable commercialisation model, BNPL valuations tanked across the board in 2021



SECTION 4

SOLVING FOR PROFITABILITY





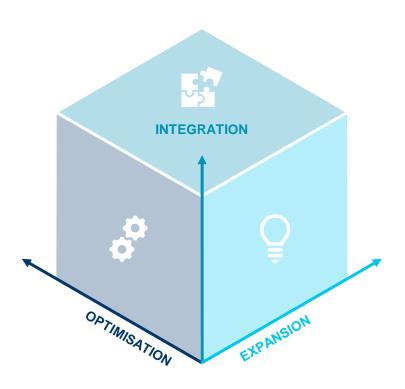


SOLVING FOR PROFITABILITY

Given the challenges being faced around profitability and valuations, a fundamental rethink of existing BNPL business models is needed

Solving for Profitability

Three Channels



1

OPTIMISATION

Optimise operations across the entire user value chain and source alternative, low-cost funding channels

2

INTEGRATION

Vertically integrate, including exploring inorganic expansion options, to develop an end-to-end consumer ecosystem

3

EXPANSION

Leverage existing offerings to diversify product suite, customer focus, and / or core business model



Section 4.1 Optimisation



OPERATIONS OPTIMISATION

We see a number of areas for optimisation across the end-to-end user journey (i.e. from customer targeting to user retention), as well as in the BNPL firm's funding sources

Operations Optimisation

User Journey & Funding Source









USER TARGETING

USER ACQUISITION

USER EVALUATION

USER RETENTION

Industry Positioning

- Focus on capturing higherincome / lower risk users
- Move up the merchant curve (from consumer staples to big ticket durables / luxuries)

Marketing Efficiency

- Adapt marketing campaigns (i.e. messages and channels) to optimise acquisition efforts
- Accelerate user acquisition through partner merchants via relevant tools and incentives

Credit Assessment

 Leverage additional data sets and re-evaluate risk engines to better assess the true creditworthiness of users and reduce NPLs

Ongoing Engagement

 Create recurring points of contact, such as regular content, to maintain user interest / engagement and drive higher app usage



FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Models

• Review existing funding channels and sources, and look to establish new partnerships with strategic funding partners to (1) minimise ongoing funding costs and (2) move credit risk off-balance sheet

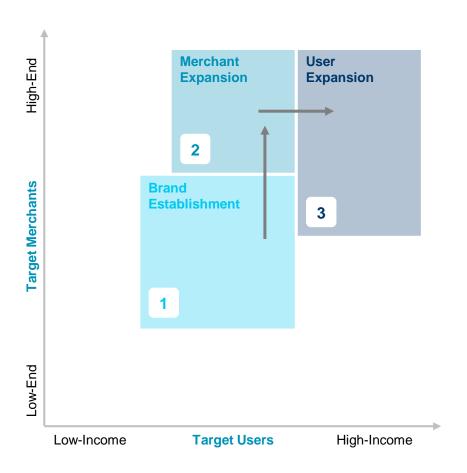


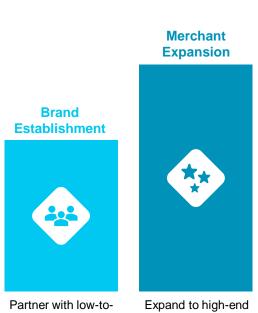
USER TARGETING (1/2) – MERCHANT POSITIONING PIVOT

A merchant positioning pivot can enable BNPL firms to drive top-line revenue potential (from greater transaction values) at lower risk (given the focus on higher-income users)

Merchant Positioning

Evolution





merchants based on

the consumption

ability / behaviour of

existing user base

mid-range merchants

and acquire tail users

to establish brand

awareness



User

/ lower risk users
through partnerships
with high-end / luxury
merchants

Source: Quinlan & Associates analysis

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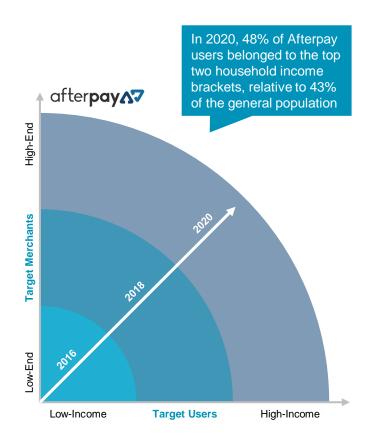


USER TARGETING (2/2) – CASE STUDY

Afterpay is a prime example is a BNPL firm that was able to shift its merchant partner strategy over time, moving from discount retailers to higher end luxury brands

Afterpay

Positioning Pivot



TOP 5 PARTNER MERCHANTS

	2016	2018	2020
	Discount Retail	Mid-Market Retail	Luxury Retail
1	crazy®	DAVID JONES	JIMMY CHOO
2	RÖBINS KITCHEN	URBAN OUTFITTERS	MICHAEL KORS
3	JEANSWEST	O TARGET	GIORGIO ARMANI
4	House	VANS	WesSaint <u>L</u> aurent
5	Peters of KENSINGTON	DIESEL	MARC JACOBS

The top partner merchants of Afterpay gradually shifted from low-end retailers to high-end, luxury brands





USER ACQUISITION (1/2) – MARKETING

While BNPL is primarily a digital offering, consumption in Asia remains heavily offlinefocused, necessitating the need to leverage both online and offline marketing channels

User Acquisition

Marketing

ONLINE CHANNELS



Social Media Advertisements

- Leverage social media platforms to connect with customers, build brand awareness, drive customer conversion, and increase sales
- **Example**: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn



Paid Search Advertisements

- Place advertisement on online platforms by paying space-owners, who display ads based on users' previous search interests
- Example: Google / YouTube / Appstore Ads

OFFLINE CHANNELS



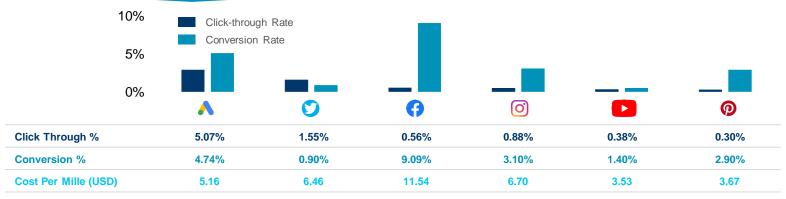
Physical Advertisements

- Display advertisements on physical space, across billboards, banners, newspapers, at locations with high foot traffic / visibility
- Example: underground, train, magazine



Electronic Media Advertisements

- Promote through electronic media channels, either via sponsoring programmes or purchasing advertising time
- · Example: television, radio





USER ACQUISITION (2/2) – CONVERSION

BNPL can consider more scalable ways to drive customer acquisition, including moving from a direct brand ambassador model to enabling merchant employees

User Acquisition

Conversion



2



3



4



DEPLOY

TRAIN

INCENTIVISE

ENHANCE

- BNPL firm deploys brand ambassadors to partner stores, directly engaging with customers to promote the service, supporting customers in service registration / usage
- Partner merchants' staff receive training from BNPL brand ambassadors, learning more about the service details and relevant support procedures / processes
- BNPL firm establishes incentive programmes for employees at merchant stores to promote the BNPL service to new customers, removing costs from the BNPLs P&L
- BNPL firm monitors user registration trends and collects user / merchant feedback to enhance incentives to maintain service promotion and user uptake

DIRECT MODEL

INDIRECT MODEL

Educate merchant staff on benefits of using BNPL

Motivate merchant staff to encourage BNPL usage

Implement adaptations to maintain engagement

Source: Quinlan & Associates analysis

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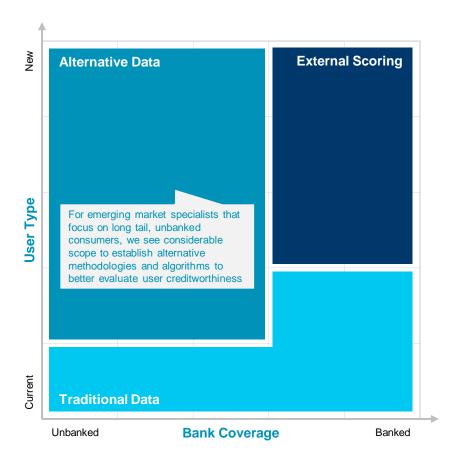


USER EVALUATION

Effectively refining the credit assessment process will enable BNPL providers to operate at risk levels that are more consistent with their tolerance / appetite, reducing NPLs

User Evaluation

Creditworthiness





External Scoring

BNPL providers, especially bank-backed ones, leverage information from external scoring institutions, such as credit bureaus



Alternative Data

Most emerging market-focused BNPL companies leverage alternative data to evaluate users without exiting credit scores

3

Traditional Data

For recurring users, BNPL players can collect data on spending and repayment behaviours for ongoing monitoring

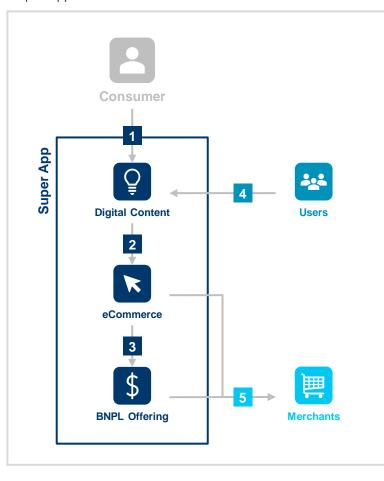


USER RETENTION

To drive user retention, BNPL firms can consider the development of a "super app", either from organically or via partnerships / acquisitions

User Engagement

Super App



SUPER APP

1

ENGAGE

Regular, updated content to encourage consumers to access the application on a recurring basis

2

BROWSE

Content engagement leads consumers to browse related products / services, driving additional consumption

3

PAY

BNPL is integrated and offered as an option at checkout, minimising friction to drive consumer adoption

USERS



CREATE

Users are encouraged to create content, either via a social media model or incentives for consumption

MERCHANTS

5

PARTNER

Merchants list products on the eCommerce platform and receive payment through the BNPL offering



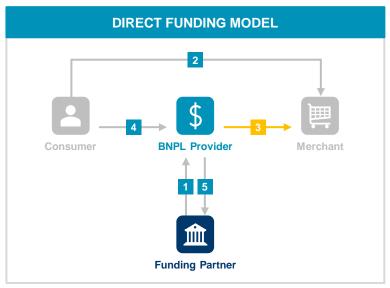
Credit Extension

FUNDING SOURCES

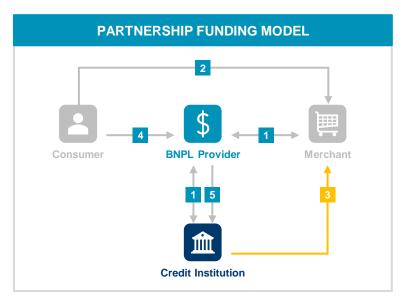
Most BNPL firms currently bear credit risk, driving up funding costs due to NPL exposure; we see considerable scope to explore alternative funding models via partnerships

Funding Model

Direct vs. Indirect



- BNPL Provider raises capital from Funding Partner (through equity / debt financing) or from retail population (through deposits)
- Consumer browses for goods at Merchant's store or website, and chooses to pay through BNPL
- BNPL Provider pays Merchant the purchase amount with the MDR deducted, bearing credit risk on own balance sheet
- Consumer pays BNPL Provider through instalments, based on predetermined BNPL terms
- 5 BNPL Provider repays capital plus returns (dividends or interests) to Funding Partner



- BNPL Provider establishes partnerships with Credit Institution and Merchant, and determine partnership terms
- Consumer browses for goods at Merchant's store or website, and chooses to pay through BNPL
- Credit Institution pays the Merchant the purchase amount with the MDR deducted, either directly or through BNPL provider
- Consumer pays BNPL Provider through instalments, based on predetermined BNPL terms
- BNPL Provider transfers amount paid by Consumer to Credit Institution, with handling fee deducted



Section 4.2 Integration



UPWARDS

DOWNWARDS

Credit Extension

VERTICAL INTEGRATION

BNPL companies can consider vertically integrating along the consumer value chain by leveraging some of their relevant capabilities

Vertical Integration

Online Consumption Value Chain

STEP 1

Browse online for desired goods

STFP 2

Secure credit to enable purchase

STFP 3

Execute transaction by making payment

STFP 4

Deliver the goods to the end-consumer

Collect outstanding debt on loan provided

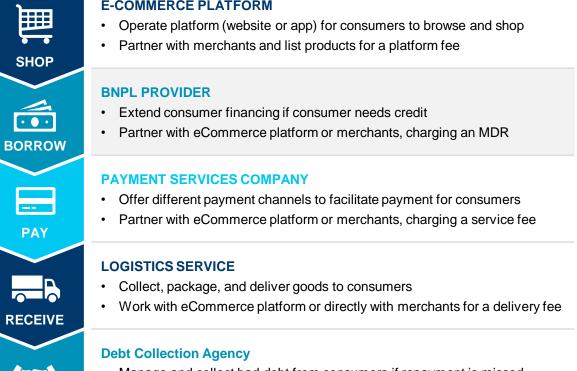


REPAY

DESCRIPTION

E-COMMERCE PLATFORM

- Manage and collect bad debt from consumers if repayment is missed
- Work with credit providers and charge a service fee, or purchase debt





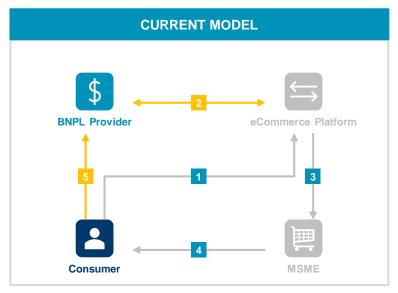
Monetisation

ECOMMERCE (1/2) – OVERVIEW

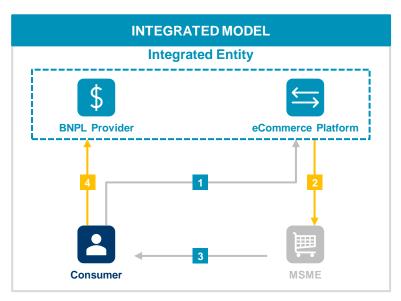
By acquiring or establishing their own eCommerce platform, BNPL companies can directly partner with retail merchants, increasing revenue through capturing a platform fee

eCommerce

Integration



- Consumer browses and purchases MSME products listed on the eCommerce platform, and chooses to pay through BNPL
- BNPL provider receives the credit application, which is typically automatically approved, and transfers the relevant sum
- eCommerce platform transfers money, with fee deducted, to the MSME merchant
- 4 MSME confirms receipt of payment, and subsequently delivers product to the consumer (independently or via fulfilment service)
- Consumer repays BNPL provider over time, based on the predetermined repayment terms



- Consumer browses and purchases MSME products listed on the eCommerce platform, and chooses to pay through BNPL
- Integrated entity transfers the purchase amount, with platform fee and MDR deducted, to MSME
- MSME confirms receipt of payment, and subsequently delivers product to the consumer (independently or via fulfilment service)
- Consumer repays BNPL provider over time, based on the predetermined repayment terms

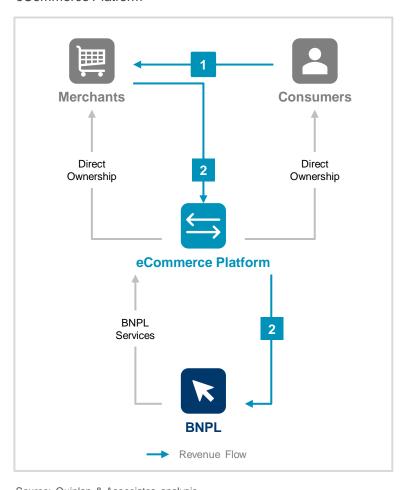


ECOMMERCE (2/2) – CUSTOMER OWNERSHIP

We believe it is important for BNPL providers to work out how to "get closer to their end customers," providing them with greater pricing power

Direct Customer Ownership

eCommerce Platform



1

Retail Sale

Merchants rely on the eCommerce platform to sell goods, receiving revenue in the form of retail sales

2

Commission / Platform Fee

In exchange for facilitating the sale, the eCommerce platform takes a sizeable platform fee

3

Service Fee / Subscription Fee

eCommerce platform pays service / subscription fee to receive noncore, BNPL services

All Consumers



Monetisation

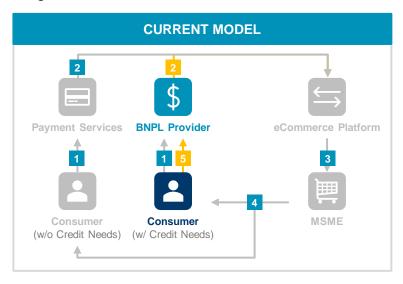
MSME

PAYMENTS

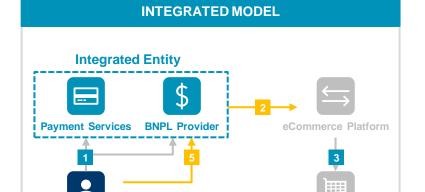
Integration with different payment services enables BNPL companies to be part of the – or remove – substitutes, driving consumer flow

Payments Services

Integration



- Consumer chooses to pay through payment services or BNPL provider, depending on their need for credit
- Payment services / BNPL provider receives payment instruction and transfers relevant sum to eCommerce platform
- eCommerce platform transfers money, with fee deducted, to the MSME merchant
- 4 MSME confirms receipt of payment, and subsequently delivers product to the consumer (independently or via fulfilment service)
- Consumer repays BNPL provider over time, based on the predetermined repayment terms



- Consumer chooses to pay through the integrated entity, regardless of their need for credit
- Integrated entity receives payment instruction and transfers relevant sum to eCommerce platform
- eCommerce platform transfers money, with fee deducted, to the MSME merchant
- MSME confirms receipt of payment, and subsequently delivers product to the consumer (independently or via fulfilment service)
- Consumer repays integrated entity for BNPL credit extended over time, based on the pre-determined repayment terms



CREDIT & DEBT COLLECTION

Some BNPL firms have invested heavily in debt collection, including physical infrastructure and / or technological solutions, which can also be further leveraged

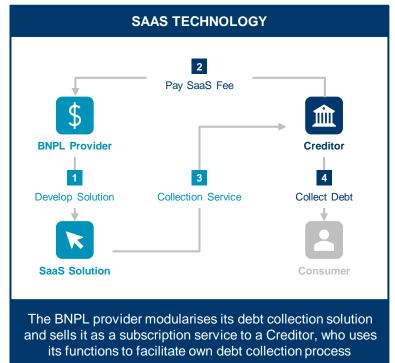
Debt Collection

Integration





The BNPL provider purchases debt from a Creditor at a discount, and uses its own physical infrastructure and onthe-ground team to collect overdue debts from the Consumer





Section 4.3 Expansion



PRODUCT EXTENSION

Leveraging their experience in the consumer credit space, BNPL firms can explore other credit products, based on the needs of their users (note: new licenses may be required)

Product Extension

Credit Products

	BNPL	Instalment Loan	Payday Loan	Cash Advance
Description	Short-term, interest- free loans to buy goods from specific partner merchants	Long-term interest- bearing loans to buy goods from specific partner merchants	Short-term, high- interest cash loans to finance spending between pay cheques	Short-term cash loans on credit cards, with higher fees than other credit card transactions
\$ Loan Amount	■0000		•0000	
Interest Rate	00000	■■000		
Loan Duration			•0000	■0000
Credit Check	00000		•0000	
Merchant Coverage				

Low High

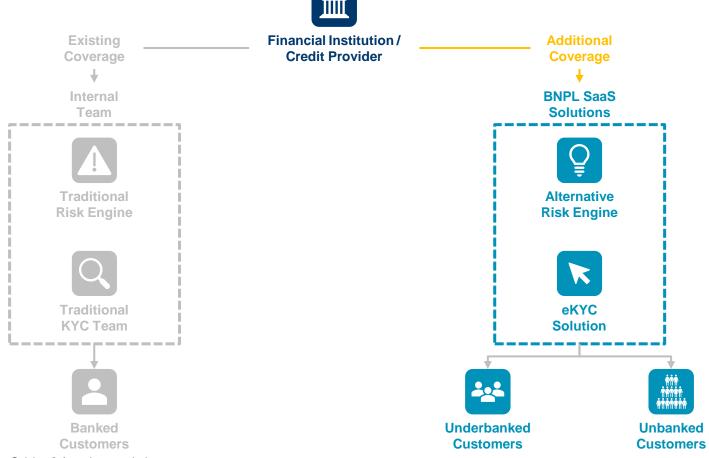


BUSINESS MODEL TRANSFORMATION

BNPL companies can also consider expanding into the service space, by modularising proprietary technologies and offering them as SaaS solutions to other financial institutions

Business Model Transformation

B2C to B2B





Section 4.4 Implications



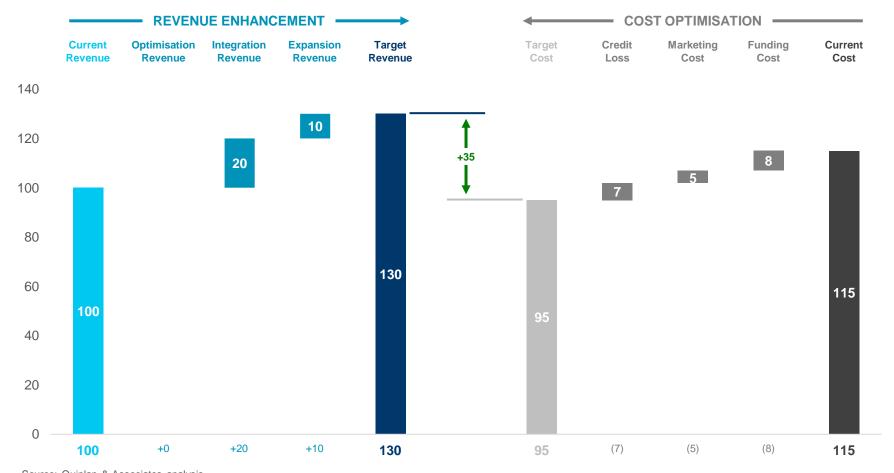


FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (1/2) - DEVELOPED MARKET PLAYERS

With suitable adjustments, we see the potential for developed market players in APAC to reach profitability, with average profit margins of 27% attainable within three years, ...

Financial Implications

Developed Market Players, Indexed (to Current Revenue)





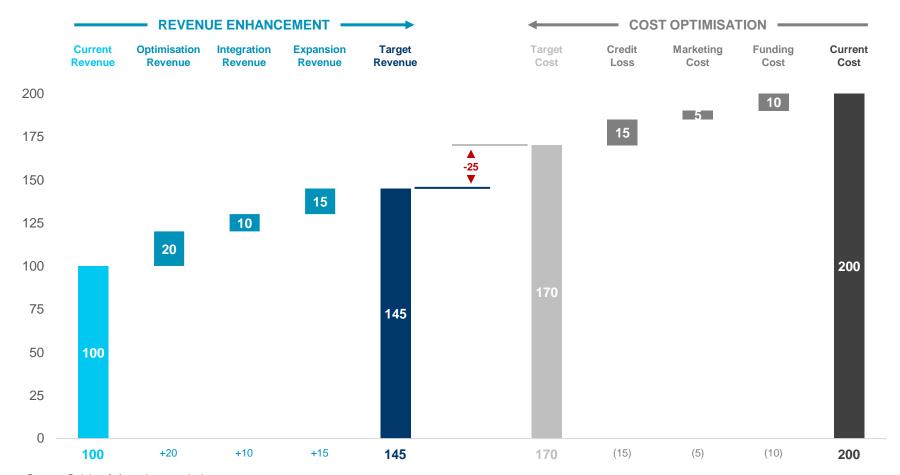


FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (2/2) – EMERGING MARKET SPECIALISTS

..., while emerging market specialists can reduce their net loss margin from -100% at presents to -17% over the same period

Financial Implications

Emerging Market Specialists, Indexed (to Current Revenue)



SECTION 5

NEW ENTRANTS



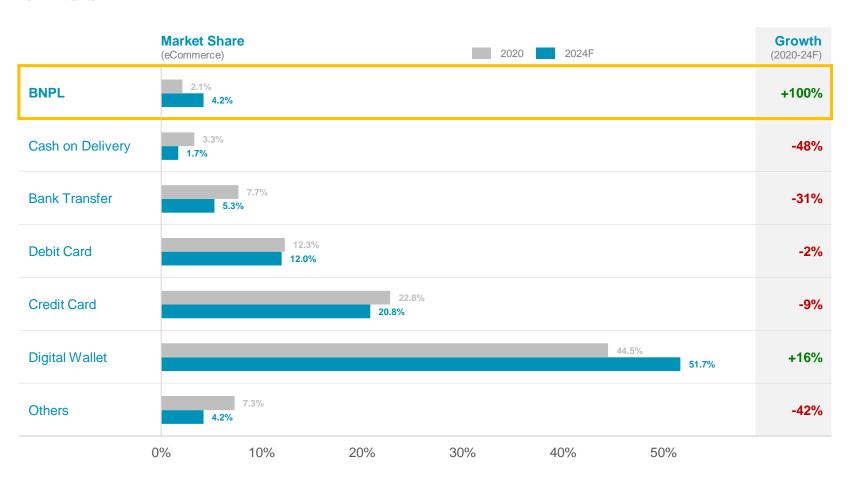


BANKS

With payment and credit distribution channels offered by banks forecast to decline in coming years, we believe banks need to rethink their consumer credit product offerings

Banks

New Entrants



Offered by Banks

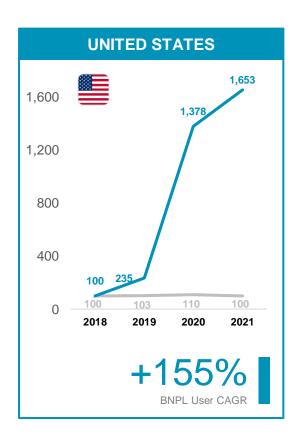


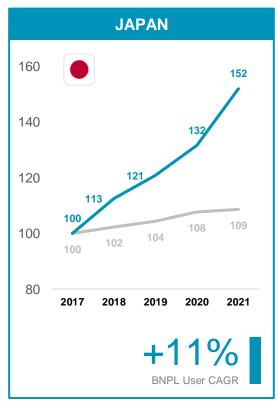
PAYMENTS SERVICES COMPANIES

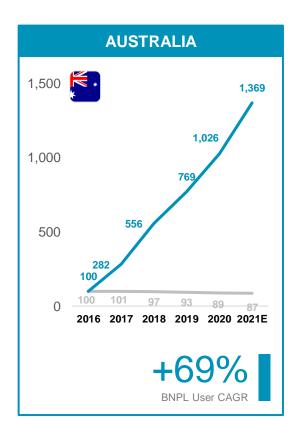
As BNPL operates as an alternative payment method, some incumbent payment services companies have ventured aggressively into BNPL to defend their payments market share

Payments Services Companies

New Entrants







BNPL — Credit Card

SECTION 6

CONCLUSION



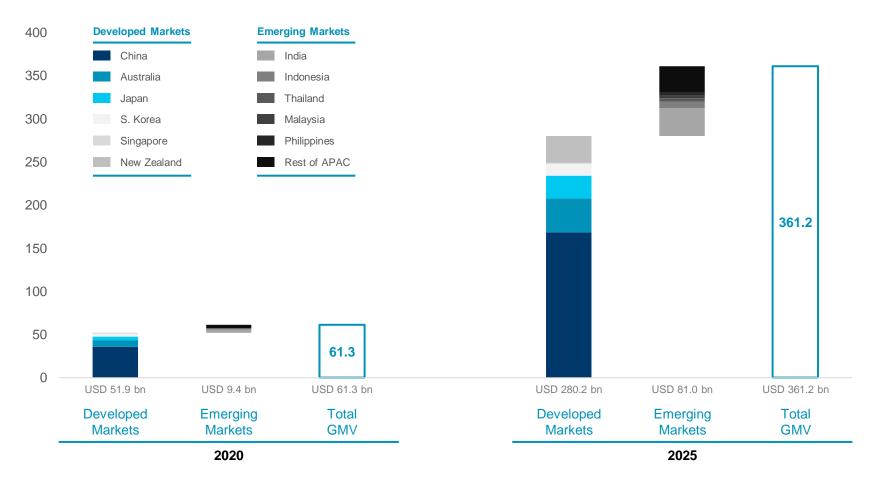


REVENUE OPPORTUNITY

The total APAC BNPL GMV is expected to grow from USD 61 billion to USD 361 billion, with developed market players processing 78% of GMV in 2025

APAC BNPL GMV

2020 & 25E, USD billion



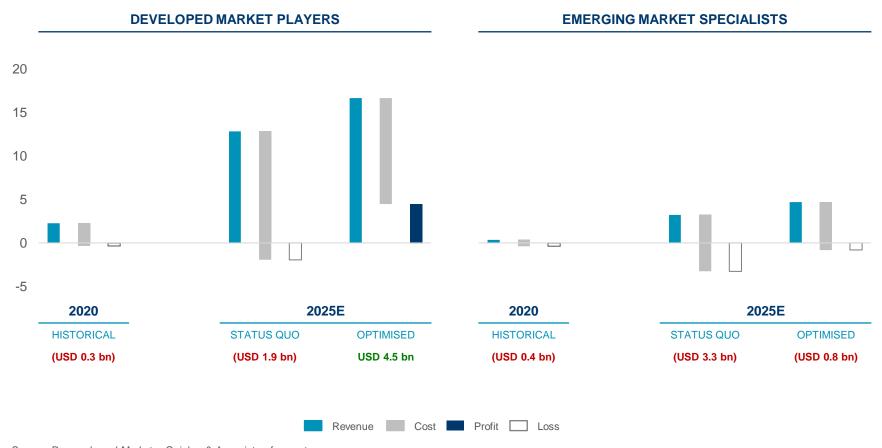


APAC BNPL PROFIT OPPORTUNITY

If BNPL companies are able to make suitable adjustments to their strategies, the APAC BNPL market could represent a USD 3.7 billion profit opportunity by 2025

APAC BNPL Profit Opportunity

USD billion



SECTION 7

HOW CAN WE HELP?





OUR SERVICES

Our consultants have extensive experience in support incumbent BNPL firms in optimising their businesses and aspiring entrants in market entry

Our Services

BNPL Industry

For Incumbent BNPL Players

4

BUSINESS REVIEW

Review the client's existing strategy and operations within the BNPL space, in order to determine key capability gaps and pain points / challenges

2

OPTION EVALUATION

Evaluate options across (1) optimisation, (2) integration, and (3) expansion, based on industry dynamics and taking into account the challenges identified

GROWTH STRATEGY

Prioritise options and establish strategy, based on industry opportunities and the client's specific circumstances, to optimise growth potential in the BNPL space

For Aspiring BNPL Entrants

OPPORTUNITY

OPPORTUNITY EVALUATION

Evaluate target markets (based on client's shortlist) to understand local / regional demand dynamics, determining a potential wallet opportunity in the BNPL space

2

COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS

Identify local / regional competitors and market leaders, to benchmark their market positioning / proposition and determine industry best practice

3

ENTRY STRATEGY

Prioritise markets and determine suitable industry positioning, along with detailed recommendations on service offering and operating model

Source: Quinlan & Associates



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