



4 November 2021

Senator Paul Scarr
Chair
Senate Economics Legislation Committee

via email: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Chair

Inquiry into Corporations Amendment (Meetings and Documents) Bill 2021 [Provisions]

Our Office supports these permanent amendments to the *Corporations Act 2001* to permit the technologically neutral holding of meetings and execution of documents. We believe the legislation contains appropriate safeguards to protect against intentional misuses of technology. This is in line with our earlier submission to the Treasury which is attached for your information.

This legislation will allow critical business processes to be undertaken despite significant distances or other issues that would otherwise delay or complicate the holding of meetings. These productivity gains will be welcomed by small businesses, and particularly those in rural and/or regional communities, who are less able absorb the costs of travelling for business. In line with the Australian Government's decentralisation and digitisation agendas, making the amendments permanent will allow small and family businesses to more easily look beyond their immediate region for business opportunities, while remaining in their community.

We recommend that should this legislation pass, the Australian Government leverage the networks of organisations that represent small businesses, including this office, to ensure that small businesses are aware of the opportunities and their responsibilities under the new law.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

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The Hon. Bruce Billson
Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman

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