

## Opening statement

- Thank you, Senator.
- Dr Heather Smith is regretful she is unable to be here and has asked me to give her apologies. As explained prior to today, Dr Smith was required to travel with the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology to attend high level meetings with senior officials in the United States Government.
- My colleagues and I are here to answer your questions.
- On that note, I'd like to advise of organisational changes since the last hearing:
  - David Williamson joined the department on 12 August as Deputy Secretary. David has responsibility for Corporate, Science and Commercialisation Policy, Questacon, NMI, and Analysis and Insights (previously known as Economic and Analytical Services Division).
  - We have made our Digital Economy function a stand-alone division to support an increased focus on technology policy. The Digital Economy and Technology Division is taking a leading role in developing policy on the digital economy, Artificial Intelligence, blockchain, and international standards development and engagement. Narelle Luchetti is the acting head of this division.
  - We have also combined our Corporate Division and Digital Strategy and Operations Division, strengthening our corporate, IT and financial services. This division is led by the Chief Operating Officer, Janean Richards, and the Chief Financial Officer - Mr Robert Hanlon will commence in this role next week. Mr Sam White is the acting Chief Financial Officer.