



Digital Transformation Agency Opening Statement

The Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) continues to work collaboratively and extensively across government to support and enhance its maturity as the Australian Government's digital advisor. We do this through uplifting digital strategy and policy, digital investment advice and assurance, digital sourcing excellence, and digital government performance and evaluation.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight to the Committee, an important outcome for the Australian Government, in the external measurement and recognition of its digital transformation efforts, by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

On 30 January 2024, the OECD acknowledged Australia as a top-5 performer, out of 38 participating nations for digital government maturity in their Digital Government Index (DGI) report. This is the first time Australia has participated in the DGI process, and to debut in the top 5 is an outstanding achievement that independently affirms Australia's digital government capabilities and aspirations. The DTA lead Australia's response to the DGI, coordinating input from over 20 departments and agencies.

The report highlighted Australia's nation-wide data and digital strategy, the strengthened security of our digital public infrastructure, and the Government's determination to use digital solutions to simplify citizen engagement. Further, Australia was acknowledged for its leadership in developing a skilled digital workforce, including how Australia attracts, builds, and retains skilled professionals. Finally, Australia was highlighted for its vast potential to facilitate international collaboration and seamless digital interactions for citizens and businesses given our secure and interoperable digital identity frameworks.

While this is an excellent result for Australia, more is being done to further strengthen Australia's digital foundations. This includes:

- our work to integrate data and digital together into an overarching Data and Digital Government Strategy
- co-partnering with the Department of Industry, Science and Resources to guide the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence to boost productivity within the public service

- supporting the Department of Home Affairs with the 2023-30 Australian Cyber Security Strategy and actions to uplift cyber maturity.

Using the Australian Government Digital and ICT Investment Oversight Framework, the DTA is well placed to support ongoing digital transformation and APS-wide efforts that will contribute to Australia maintaining and improving its ranking in the next DGI.

Wayne Poels

Acting Chief Executive Officer