



Australian
Communications
and Media Authority

Chair and Agency Head

Dr Kilian Perrem
Inquiry Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Department of the House of Representatives
[REDACTED]
Canberra ACT 2600
[REDACTED]

Dear Dr Perrem

Submission to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit – Inquiry into the use and governance of artificial intelligence systems by public sector entities

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 September 2024, inviting the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to contribute to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit's (JCPAA) Inquiry into the use and governance of artificial intelligence systems by public sector entities.

The ACMA welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Inquiry, and in response offers observations on its approach to artificial intelligence (AI) use and governance in the enclosed submission (**Attachment A**).

The ACMA's submission addresses the following items in the Inquiry's Terms of Reference:

- the purposes for which AI is currently being used by the public sector entity and whether there are planned or likely future uses;
- the existing legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks that are relevant to the use of AI and whether they are fit for purpose; and
- the internal framework/policies or additional controls used for assessing the risks associated with the use and possible misuse of AI, including the areas of security, privacy, ethics, bias, discrimination, transparency and accountability.

Please contact the ACMA's Parliamentary and Ministerial team with any queries via Parliamentary.Ministerial@acma.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Nerida O'Loughlin PSM

24 October 2024

Encl: Attachment A – ACMA Submission to the JCPAA Inquiry into the use and governance of AI

ACMA Submission to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit:

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) is the independent statutory authority responsible for the regulation of broadcasting, radiocommunications, telecommunications and some online content in Australia.

The ACMA offers the following submission to the Joint Committee for its Inquiry into the use and governance of artificial intelligence systems by public sector entities:

1. The ACMA is developing an overarching agency approach to artificial intelligence (AI) and has established an AI Steering Committee to assess the opportunities and risks in using AI within ACMA and eSafety. The Steering Committee was formed in late 2023 with representation from across divisions, reporting to the ACMA Executive Management Committee.
2. The AI Steering Committee considers AI use case benefits, risks, and guidelines as well as continuing to raise staff awareness of AI.
3. The ACMA AI Steering Committee have collated and assessed a number of AI use cases which have been prioritised, shortlisted with some initial use cases having been scoped for trial. A process for AI assurance and assessment has been established based on the draft Commonwealth AI Assurance Framework, consistent with the [Australia's AI Ethics Principles](#)¹.
4. A policy for the internal use of AI, focused on generative AI has recently been settled. The objective of the policy is to ensure responsible, ethical, and secure usage of AI tools while safeguarding the privacy, confidentiality, and integrity of agency data and operations. Under the new policy, generative AI tools must not be used unless specifically approved under a robust approval and assurance process. The AI request and approval process is being trialled over the coming months.
5. The policy is consistent with the Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) release of the [Policy for the responsible use of AI in government](#)², which came into effect on 1 September 2024. As required by the policy:
 - a. the ACMA have nominated an accountable official
 - b. are developing a transparency statement to be submitted by 28 February 2025.
6. The ACMA AI Steering Committee will continue to meet regularly to assess and oversee the implementation of the new ACMA AI policy and the operationalisation of the AI request process and approval process. The AI policy is expected to be updated and adapted as needed given the pace of change in this area.

¹ <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/australias-artificial-intelligence-ethics-principles/australias-ai-ethics-principles>

² <https://www.digital.gov.au/policy/ai/policy>