



31 January 2023

Senate Standing Committees on Economics  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

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Dear Committee Members,

**Treasury Laws Amendment (Modernising Business Communications and Other Measures) Bill 2022**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Committee's Inquiry into the Treasury Laws Amendment (Modernising Business Communications and Other Measures) Bill 2022.

DocuSign is the world's largest platform that facilitates the secure electronic exchange of digital documents and signatures. We have been doing this for nearly two decades, and today have nearly 750,000 paying customers and hundreds of millions of people signing with our platform across 180 countries.

We work closely with private, public and government organisations around the world on innovative ways for them to use digital services, such as DocuSign eSignature, to efficiently operate and effectively serve their customers and constituents.

DocuSign ensures these organisations can:

- Execute documents more securely and reliably.
- Sign documents in minutes, rather than days, and have the documents immediately sent back to each of the signers from a computer, tablet, or mobile device.
- Remove the need to meet face to face, as well as the need for manual tasks like printing, scanning, posting, or couriering documents.
- Achieve significant savings on hard costs such as paper, printing, photocopying, scanning, and storing documents. Such considerable paper reduction also has positive environmental impact.
- Complete documents from anywhere, at any time and by anyone. This is meaningful for people living in rural and remote areas, small businesses, people with disabilities and for people who speak languages other than English.
- Automatically store and generate a robust, court-admissible audit trail for every document they have signed.

For many years, DocuSign has been advising and advocating for the reform of electronic document execution in Australia to clarify further the situations in which electronic signatures can be used.

In the past two years we have run more than 20 industry, small business, legal practice, and consumer consultations for thousands of individuals on the electronic execution of documents in Australia.

Therefore, we were extremely pleased when the Corporations Amendment (Meetings and Documents) Act 2022 came into force on 22 February 2022.

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Since then these amendments have saved Australian companies tens of millions in costs and enormous amounts of time that were traditionally associated with having company documents wet signed and distributed.

While most Australian companies now execute nearly all their documents electronically, we are aware of some specific cases where there has been some uncertainty around the ability to electronically sign some specific documents.

We therefore welcome the Treasury Laws Amendment (Modernising Business Communications and Other Measures) Bill 2022, as it specifically amends the Corporations Act to provide that *“all documents which are required or permitted to be signed under the Corporations Act can be signed electronically or in wet-ink”*.

In the past, a simple lack of clarity on what documents could and couldn't be executed electronically led to huge uncertainty and confusion amongst lawyers, businesses, and individuals across Australia as to the validity of electronic signatures in specific use cases under the Corporations Act.

DocuSign received correspondence from hundreds of concerned customers seeking clarity on what documents they could execute electronically. Customers also detailed to us huge inefficiencies and costs they encountered due to a lack of clarity.

Given permanent clarity the Treasury Laws Amendment (Modernising Business Communications and Other Measures) Bill 2022 will provide, we anticipate that those signing company documents under the Corporations Act will be extremely pleased with the certainty that the amendment brings.

We encourage the Committee to reflect this in their report and highlight the need for the changes specifically outlined in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Bill to be passed through the House of Representatives and Senate without delay.

We again thank the Committee for the opportunity to outline our views in this submission.

Sincerely,

**Dan Bognar**  
**Group Vice President & General Manager, Asia Pacific & Japan**  
**DocuSign, Inc.**