

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**AIIA congratulates returned Labor Western Australian Government
but says more needs to be done to boost the local ICT industry**

Australia's peak body for the technology industry, the Australian Information Industry Association ([AIIA](#)) congratulates the Western Australian Labor Party and Premier Mark McGowan on their election victory.

Now the election is over, Western Australia can move forward with confidence and plan for a State budget that takes the Western Australian economy forward and boosts local skills, innovation and jobs with digital technology at the centre.

Earlier this month, the AIIA released its [pre-election policy statement](#), making eight recommendations and identifying key areas of focus for an incoming Western Australia Government.

The appointment of a Digital Industry Minister within Cabinet is the leading recommendation from the AIIA to the re-elected West Australian Government.

The AIIA CEO Ron Gauci said: "We look forward to working with the new Western Australia Government to see how industry and government can partner for success to boost the local ICT industry. Western Australia has the opportunity to take a leading role in the digitisation of government services and lead the nation.

"By supporting innovative technology throughout the state, Western Australia will be in a position to maximise the benefits digital technology presents. It is important the Government considers the gains digital technology offers across all government projects and government services. A Digital Industry Minister has the opportunity to lead the modernisation of the West Australian economy and the West Australian government services to secure the benefits innovative digital technologies offer.

"The COVID pandemic has demonstrated that digital technologies are core to effective government, citizen engagement and productivity. Innovation technology is driving investments across Australia in areas such as manufacturing, health, mining, defence and education," Mr Gauci said.

In its WA pre-election statement, the AIIA recommended areas of policy priorities and investment focus on government digitisation, adoption of open procurement processes, investing in the regions and boosting digital skills.

"The current restricted ICT panel arrangements limit the WA Government's ability to deliver for the people of WA and we propose a more competitive approach to working with a wider range of providers. This will boost the industry, support SMEs and aid WA," Mr Gauci explained.

The Western Australian AIIA Council Chair, Ms Sharon Brown said: "A boost in digital technology in WA will offer many opportunities for the state to diversify our economy and build for the future. Being involved in major government initiatives, such as the MetroNet transport project, will strengthen the local ICT industry and position WA as a digital technology leader."

Eight key recommendations: (for full WA pre-election statement please go to www.aiaa.com.au)

1. That the WA Government make the cabinet-level appointment of a Digital Industry Minister with a mandate to consult with industry to develop an integrated strategy over the coming 12 months that drives the modernisation of digital services throughout WA.
2. That the WA Government continue to drive the development of online service portals for the delivery of both essential and non-essential government services. This includes an ambitious target wherein all WA state government agencies mandate the delivery, across the next two years, of key services to the public via a digital platform.
3. The introduction of an open procurement process for Government, which allows all public cloud providers, including local WA companies to compete equally. WA will have an environment of competitive marketing for public cloud services and a local platform for public cloud providers within 12 months to generate competition on price and quality of service.
4. As part of recovery roadmap government looks at the opportunities presented by digital technology, both in new projects and integrated within existing project commitments.
5. That in 2021/22 the WA government ensure that major spending initiatives include a commitment towards digital capability. The inclusion of a digital taskforce for the MetroNet project is an example of this approach.
6. That the government review the state payroll taxation framework, acknowledging both the positives and negatives of our taxation system, with the goal of securing a system that works to foster an enabling environment for local businesses.
7. The WA Government makes it a priority in 2021/22 to work with the AIIA on an industry engagement program designed to create a pipeline of digital industry initiatives in support of regional growth and economic diversification within WA. A focus of this program can be the roll out of digital Skills Hubs to drive workforce participation in regional communities.
8. In response to the forecast growth in the workforce, AIIA is keen to build on the existing positive relationships in terms of ensuring that training support has the appropriate focus on digital technology, cyber security, and data science.

The AIIA is a not-for-profit organisation aimed at fuelling Australia's future social and economic prosperity through technology innovation.

ENDS

Notes to Editor

- In 2020, the AIIA recently released a white paper titled '[Building Australia's Digital Future in a Post-COVID World](#)', which emphasised the need to look beyond traditional infrastructure investment by government with more focus on technology infrastructure.

For media enquiries: Thrive PR and Communications

Anissha Vijayan - Account Director

M: 0401 016 860

E: anissha.vijayan@thrivepr.com.au



Jacinta Chapman - Group Account Director
M: 0409 850 413
E: jacinta.chapman@thrivepr.com.au

Simon Bush - AIIA GM Policy and Advocacy
M: 0417 642 200
E: simon@aiia.com.au

About AIIA

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) is Australia's peak representative body and advocacy group for those in the digital ecosystem. Since 1978 AIIA has pursued activities to stimulate and grow the digital ecosystem, to create a favourable business environment for members and to contribute to Australia's economic prosperity. We do this by delivering outstanding member value by providing a strong voice of influence; building a sense of community through events and education; enabling a network for collaboration and inspiration; and developing compelling content and relevant and interesting information.