MEDIA STATEMENT
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AIIA backs proposed Technology Assessment Office

Australia's peak body for innovation technology, the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA), supports the bipartisan proposal put forward by Aaron Violi MP with the assistance of Dr Daniel Mulino MP to establish a Technology Assessment Office. The office would advise policy makers on the impact emerging technologies may have on proposed policy and how to ensure regulations keep pace with technological change and development.

Government and members of parliament are now required to have a high level of understanding of modern and emerging technology and how it drives productivity and impacts on society. At times, the rapid pace of change in technology can be overwhelming for policy makers so the standing up of a policy technology advisory office has merit. The AIIA notes that such an office existed in the US to advise the US Congress from 1974 to 1995 with calls again for its reinstatement.

AIIA CEO Simon Bush said: "The AIIA welcomes Mr Violi and Dr Mulino's proposal for a Technology Assessment Office. Increased understanding of the impacts and opportunities posed by emerging technologies such as generative AI, Quantum, IoT and robotics will have on the economy is needed to develop well considered and fit-for-purpose policy. A greater understanding and assessment of technology policy will ideally lead to a reduction in duplication and overlap and mediate against the increased regulatory burden on the economy.

"The AIIA has been consistent with our recommendations for a Council of Tech Regulators to support policy makers to develop policy that is streamlined and sequenced. What Mr Violi is proposing is consistent with this approach, seeking to provide independent insights that will support good policy. Where regulation is needed, it is important that it is fully informed on the implications and existing responsibilities faced by industry.

"Emerging technologies have the potential to rapidly transform Australia's economy. It is important our policy makers are provided the best information available to support the development of any regulation. The AIIA has proudly worked with government over many decades to support the implementation of practical and sensible practices and policy. We welcome the proposal of a Technology Assessment Office and look forward to understanding what form this office will take. The AIIA would be happy to help develop the Office's framework for operation as the idea further progresses."

The AIIA is a not-for-profit organisation aimed at fuelling Australia's future social and economic prosperity through tech innovation and remains committed to working with all levels of Government to secure Australia's digital future.

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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; developing compelling content and relevant
and interesting information.