

**MEDIA STATEMENT**  
**19 September 2023**

**Minister for Finance Announces Draft Digital ID Legislation and Rules At AIIA Forum;  
Establishment of AI Taskforce announced**

Addressing the AIIA's Canberra Managers' Forum event today, Minister for Finance, Women and Public Services, Katy Gallagher announced draft Digital ID legislation and rules, an announcement that has been welcomed by Australia's peak body for innovation technology, the Australian Information Industry Association ([AIIA](#)).

The AIIA supports the development of this legislation and the commencement of consultation, with Digital Identity offering opportunities to improve service delivery, increase efficiencies and create opportunities for the interoperability of data and services between states and the federal Government.

The AIIA also hosted a Roundtable meeting following the announcement event, with senior Department of Finance leaders responsible for the digital ID reforms using the roundtable with key AIIA policy leads to start the consultation process.

The announcement this morning of an AI taskforce within government by Minister Gallagher and Minister Husic is also welcomed by the AIIA.

With artificial intelligence (AI) offering opportunities for improved service delivery and efficiencies with government, it is important that this is safely adopted and that appropriate guidelines are in place within the public sector to build citizens' confidence in the use of AI.

As Australia advances towards a productive digital economy that fully leverages the productivity benefits of AI, and particularly generative AI, government must be an exemplar of responsible AI, implementing purpose-built guardrails.

Minister Gallagher outlined how the AI Taskforce will help ensure government agencies can use AI in a safe and responsible way. The Taskforce will be led by the Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) and the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR).

AIIA CEO Simon Bush said: "The AIIA supports the principles behind the Digital ID legislation and rules, along with the AI Taskforce announced today by Minister Gallagher and Minister Husic. It was fantastic to speak with leaders of the Department of Finance today on the opportunities and challenges the Digital ID offers Australia. It is important the Albanese Government continue to support the safe use and encourage the continued innovation digital technology offers.

"We have been urging the Federal Government to advance Digital ID to improve service delivery and interoperability with other departments and states that will benefit all Australians. The proposed legislation will provide strong regulation for accredited Digital ID providers to make sure they keep your information private and secure, if you choose to create and reuse a Digital ID to access online services. The legislation will also enable the expansion of the Australian Government Digital ID System to include private sector organisations that choose to participate. We look forward to working with our policy committees to engage with the draft legislation and rules.

"The AI taskforce is also a great opportunity for the public service to lead the adoption and transparent use of AI. There are great efficiencies to be gained through the adoption of AI in government services, but we know the public must have trust in how it is used. As set out in the AIIA/KPMG [Navigating AI Report: A Guide to the Use and Adoption of AI](#), appropriate measures are needed that guide the use

of AI, along with proper agency processes and clear accountability for AI's implementation, while promoting its greater use and innovation.

“The AIIA looks forward to working with Minister Gallagher, Minister Husic, their respective departments and the DTA on these two important announcements. Emerging technologies have the potential to transform the Australian economy, we are encouraged by the leadership the Albanese Government is showing in this space.”

*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.*

**ENDS**

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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.