

# MEDIA RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Tech Sector Seeking Accelerated Strategic Vision Following 2025–26 Federal Budget

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) acknowledges the Government’s continued focus on cost-of-living support and investment in infrastructure as outlined in the 2025–26 Federal Budget. However, the technology sector remains eager to see a clearer vision and stronger policy signals to position Australia as a globally competitive digital economy.

The AIIA welcomes measures to support long-term national capability – such as investment in STEM education, upgrades to the National Broadband Network, and clean energy transition and investments in the Future Made in Australia program.

While the AIIA acknowledges this is very much a pre-election budget, there is a lack of strategic vision for the digital economy and to respond to the clear challenge outlined in the budget speech where AI was stated as one of the five seismic shifts occurring across global economies including Australia’s.

Notably, key policy frameworks underpinning Artificial Intelligence (AI) and research and development (R&D) remain under review, with funding decisions likely deferred until those processes conclude. Treasury also forecasts in this budget that R&D funding will fall by almost \$650 million over the next five years.

The AIIA reiterates its call for the National AI Capability Plan to be completed before the end of this year so that it can be funded in the next budget round.

“The AIIA supports the Government’s efforts to lay the groundwork for future reforms, but with the world around us accelerating their AI investments, our productivity at record lows and technology moving at pace, we are falling further behind,” said AIIA CEO Simon Bush.

“Australia has the talent and ambition to lead in digital innovation,” Mr Bush said. “What we now need is a strong, forward-looking strategy – backed by investment – that places technology and digital capability at the heart of Australia’s economic story.”

The AIIA stands ready to work with the government to ensure the successful delivery of upcoming reviews and to support the development of a national digital economy strategy that can keep pace with international competition and meet the needs of Australian industry and citizens alike.

**ENDS**

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## About the AIIA

The AIIA is Australia's peak representative body and advocacy group for those in the digital ecosystem. Since 1978, the AIIA has pursued activities to stimulate and grow the digital ecosystem, to create a favourable business environment for our members and to contribute to Australia's economic prosperity. We are a not-for-profit organisation to benefit members, which represents around 90% of the over one million employed in the technology sector in Australia. We are unique in that we represent the diversity of the technology ecosystem from small and medium businesses, start-ups, universities, and digital incubators through to large Australian companies, multinational software and hardware companies, data centres, telecommunications companies and technology consulting companies