

# MEDIA RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **AIIA welcomes new Ministry and calls for completion of reforms: thanks outgoing Ministers Husic and Dreyfus**

The AIIA welcomes the announcement by the Prime Minister today of his new Ministry.

The appointment of Senator the Hon. Tim Ayres as Minister for Industry and Innovation and Dr Andrew Charlton MP as Assistant Minister for Science, Technology and the Digital Economy shows the importance of the innovation and productivity agenda at the heart of the Albanese Government.

The AIIA had been advocating for a Digital Economy Minister inside the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, so Dr Andrew Charlton's appointment underscores the importance the Prime Minister places on the digital economy. Our engagements with Dr Charlton as Special Envoy on Cyber Security and Digital Resilience demonstrated his willingness and interest in engaging with industry and showed his understanding of the productivity benefits of embracing digital technologies across the economy.

AIIA CEO, Simon Bush said in welcoming the new Ministry: "Both Senator Ayres and Dr Charlton face a number of important open policy and regulatory reviews including on AI regulations, the National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Capability Plan and R&D that need resolving and we look forward to working with them both. Technologies like AI drive productivity and economic growth and as a country we need the right signalling, investments and regulations to ensure we become a leading digital economy."

The appointment of the Hon. Michelle Rowland to Attorney-General is another welcome appointment given her deep understanding of communications and technology with the intersection of privacy and copyright law that technology challenges like AI can bring to government and society.

We are also pleased to see the re-appointment of Senator the Hon. Katy Gallagher as the Minister for Finance and Minister for Government Services, continuing her strong leadership through the Digital Transformation Agency, government services and digital identity policy.

The AIIA would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hon. Ed Husic and the Hon. Mark Dreyfus KC, MP for their service as Minister for Industry and Science and Attorney-General, respectively. We appreciate their commitment to updating Australia's regulatory framework to support the responsible use of emerging technologies.

The Hon. Ed Husic has been a valued partner to the technology industry. Through close consultation, he has advanced or initiated several key initiatives, including the Voluntary AI

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Safety Standards, the development of the National AI Capability Plan, and the Strategic Review of Research and Development in Australia.

The Hon. Mark Dreyfus KC, MP has led critical reforms such as Tranche 1 of the Australian Privacy Reform Bill and the Criminal Code Amendment (Deepfake Sexual Material) Act 2024, among others.

The AIIA is eager to see this important work continue—particularly the introduction of Mandatory AI Guardrails, progress on the AI Capability Plan and R&D Review, and the timely passage of Tranche 2 of the Privacy Reform Bill. The tech industry is seeking certainty to inform future investment decisions.

Our [2025 Digital State of the Nation](#) survey showed clear industry anxiety over broad ICT government leadership and urgency to tap into the growth enabled by once-in-a-lifetime technological boom such as AI. We look forward to working with the incoming Ministers to promote a pro-innovation, pro-safety environment that enables the responsible adoption of new technologies and drives national productivity.

**ENDS**

For further information, please contact:

## **Media**

Siew Lee Seow

General Manager, Policy and Media

E: [siewlee@aiaa.com.au](mailto:siewlee@aiaa.com.au)

M: 0435 620 406

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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.