

## **Barton Deakin Brief: Digital Economy Strategy Consultation Paper**

19 September 2017

Today, the Federal Government announced the development of a national Digital Economy Strategy. The first stage of the Strategy involves the release of the [Digital Economy Strategy Consultation Paper](#), which outlines the government's current digital agenda and provides businesses with an opportunity to make a submission on the key issues. After the consultation period, the Digital Economy Strategy will be formally launched in 2018.

This Barton Deakin Brief will explain the key priorities of the Government's Digital Economy agenda.

### **Background**

The Digital Economy Strategy is an initiative of the Department of Industry, Innovation, and Science, led by the Minister for Industry, Innovation, and Science, Senator the Honourable Arthur Sinodinos AO.

The Strategy will seek to identify ways the Government and industry can best capitalise on the opportunities presented in the digital space by working with the private sector. The Government estimates that the adoption and use of digital technologies could contribute between \$140 billion to \$250 billion to Australia's GDP by 2025.

### **The Digital Economy Strategy**

The Government's Digital Economy Strategy will focus primarily on the use of digital infrastructure, developing digital business capability, and building digital skills. In accepting submissions as part of the consultation process, the Government is seeking input on:

- Increasing productivity within existing industries, bolstering presently-existing and future competitive strengths, maximising advantages in economy-wide changes and identifying new growth sources;
- Developing global leadership in digital technologies for businesses and organisations of all sizes, and;
- Addressing the 'digital divide' by facilitating the up-skilling of the Australian workforce with capabilities and skills necessary to harness the opportunities in the digital economy.

The Digital Economy Strategy will inform future policy settings, contribute to regulatory reform in the digital space in line with international standards, and provide fresh approaches to the adoption of innovative technologies in the provision of Government services. The Government has committed to continuing to work with industry through the rollout of the Digital Economy Strategy in 2018 and into the future.

## **Digital Infrastructure**

The Digital Economy Strategy will seek input on ways to bolster Australia's digital infrastructure with a specific focus on data collection, storage, transmission, and analysis. The Government seeks to identify means to improving access to quality, affordable and reliable communications services, as well as the underlying data, platforms and protocols that support digital technology.

The Government has canvassed opportunities in emerging technologies in 5G cellular technology, artificial intelligence, whole-of-government data sharing initiatives, and distributed ledger (blockchain) technology as part of the Digital Economy Strategy.

## **Regulation and Governance**

In light of rapid changes in technology, the Government has identified the need for Australia to adopt internationally agreed standards and interoperable systems to support our participation in global supply chains. In acknowledging that "traditional regulatory approaches may be no longer appropriate" in areas such as GST and multinational tax avoidance, the government has signalled that the strategy will look globally to international standards for guidance on regulatory reform.

The Digital Economy Strategy will also seek to implement technological solutions for an optimised delivery of government services. This is in line with the Government's establishment of the Digital Transformation Agency (**DTA**), designed to build capability across the Australian Public Service and delivery of the Government's ICT Agenda.

Barton Deakin's Brief on the Digital Transformation Agency's ICT Procurement Reforms can be read [here](#).

## **Cyber Confidence and Cyber Security**

The Government is also seeking private sector input on the mitigation of risks associated with national security, cybercrime, and data breaches in the wake of increased digitalisation. This will be specifically focused on data protection, commercial security, and privacy measures instituted at the Government level to give businesses and consumers confidence in operating online.

## **Further Information**

Submissions can be made to the Department of Industry, Innovation, and Science up until 30 November, 2017 either via email at [digitaleconomy@industry.gov.au](mailto:digitaleconomy@industry.gov.au), through the Department's [Consultation Hub](#), or via mail at:

Digital Economy Strategy team  
Department of Industry, Innovation and Science



**Government Relations**

GPO Box 2013, Canberra ACT 2601.

The Minister's press release, 'Deciding Our Digital Future', can be read [here](#).

The Digital Economy Consultation Paper can be read [here](#).

To read Barton Deakin's Brief on the Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda, click [here](#).

**For further information, please contact David Alexander on +61 457 400 524, Vanessa Findlay on +61 407 895 813, Gabrielle Hedge on +61 402 700 134 or Lucas Pender on +61 400 930 301.**