



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

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ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

Mr Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer
Open Government Partnership
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Suite 500 / Open Gov Hub
Washington, DC 20005
UNITED STATES

Dear Mr Pradhan

Australia's Open Government National Action Plan 2016-18

Further to my letter of 2 June 2016, the Australian Government has been working closely with civil society to develop ambitious commitments for our first National Action Plan.

Our intention is to submit the National Action Plan before the end of 2016. The timeframe reflects both the delay caused by the Australian federal election earlier this year and the extra time and effort we have put into developing the Plan through an interim working group of senior public servants and civil society representatives.

It will ensure there is adequate time to properly consult on the National Action Plan within Government and with the Australian public in October and November, in keeping with the requirements of the Open Government Partnership.

Further information on efforts to date and next steps in developing Australia's first National Action Plan is attached to this letter. A copy of this letter has also been provided to the OGP Steering Committee co-chairs.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Kennedy'.

Steven Kennedy
Deputy Secretary
Innovation and Transformation

19 October 2016



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST OPEN GOVERNMENT NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Progress update – October 2016

The Australian Government has made significant progress and put considerable resources into developing its first National Action Plan since the Prime Minister wrote to the Open Government Partnership in November 2015 to confirm Australia's membership.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has been leading the development of the National Action Plan, to ensure it is given a high profile and priority across government.

Activities undertaken in late 2015 and the first half of 2016 (prior to the July 2016 Federal election) included:

- *Raising awareness* – public meetings were held in four capital cities in late 2015 to raise awareness of Australia's membership of the Open Government Partnership and the process to develop our first National Action Plan. Additional awareness raising activities were undertaken through social media, government websites, teleconferences and webinars, and email mailing lists.
- *Seeking ideas* – a formal consultation process ran from December 2015 to April 2016 to seek suggestions on potential commitments for the National Action Plan. This included a formal submission process, teleconferences with stakeholders, and a 'co-creation' workshop with over 60 participants in April 2016.
- *Engaging across government* – an inter-departmental committee was established, with 23 government organisations represented. Members of the inter-departmental committee were engaged in considering the potential commitments put forward by stakeholders and also participated in the co-creation workshop.

Interim Working Group

Following the Federal election, an Interim Working Group was established to help co-draft the National Action Plan, building on earlier public consultations.

The Interim Working Group has equal representation of senior government officials and civil society stakeholders. It is co-chaired by Dr Steven Kennedy, Deputy Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and Ms Fiona McLeod SC, President-elect of the Law Council of Australia.

The Interim Working Group has held three face-to-face meetings and a workshop since it was announced on 30 August 2016. The purpose of these meetings was to prioritise and discuss the details of proposed commitments for the Plan. All agendas, agenda papers and minutes from meetings have been published on the [OGP Australia blog](#).

Next steps

The draft National Action Plan is currently being considered within government. Once approved, it will be released publicly for at least a two week public consultation period in late October and early November.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet will work with the Interim Working Group to use our collective networks and efforts to publicise the National Action Plan, ensuring we reach a wide audience. Submissions will be invited online and we are also looking into other forms of engagement (e.g. face-to-face public meetings and stakeholder teleconferences).

The Government will consider public comments and work with the Interim Working Group to consider changes to the National Action Plan. The intention is to submit the Plan ahead of the Open Government Partnership Global Summit, 7-9 December 2016.

Other activity

The Australian Government has been active domestically and internationally on open government issues while the National Action Plan has been under development.

- The Public Data Policy Statement was released in December 2015 and commits Australian Government entities to release non-sensitive data as open by default.
- The Government announced on 6 May 2016 that it would join the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, noting Australia is one of the largest and longest-serving supporters of the initiative.
- Australia participated in the UK's International Anti-Corruption Summit on 12 May 2016 and committed to a range of new actions, including: exploring options for a beneficial ownership register for companies; working with the UK and others to establish the new International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre; and establishing a new Government Business Roundtable on Corruption.
- Australia championed the anti-corruption agenda during our 2014 G20 presidency and is at the forefront of efforts on global tax transparency in response to the leaked Panama Papers in 2016.
 - Australia remains an active participant in the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, where ambitious G20 actions are progressing to: improve public sector integrity and transparency, including in public contracting, budget processes and customs; enhance beneficial ownership transparency; counter terrorism financing and trade mispricing; and combat foreign bribery. Actions include information sharing and implementing international standards.

We are looking to include and build on these commitments in the National Action Plan where possible, with clear timeframes for implementation.