IoTAA submission, Statutory Review of the Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022– Issues Paper

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Total pages (not including cover page) 4

Key consultation points for discussion

1. **Has the operation of the DAT Act advanced its objects?**

   The objects of the Act imply but do not explicitly require a holistic approach across all levels of government <u>and the private sector.</u> We recommend this becomes an explicit element of the Act.

   The current Act has the effect of primarily driven a government focus which seems to have driven an admirable improvement in the frameworks and methods for sharing public data within government, but falls short on promoting better availability and use of public sector data through private channels, especially for business use.

   Exceptions include the use of NSW government transport data for private transport services, for example.

   In relation to enhancing integrity and transparency and in building confidence in the use of public sector data there could be more work done at classifying or tagging data quality. This would potentially open up opportunity for better use of AI tools and understanding of data risks in AI outputs. It would also open up better opportunities for the private sector data to be made available, at understood lower quality for certain purposes. E.g. local weather data for better weather forecasting or monitoring and managing better air quality, https://airquality-hub.seed.nsw.gov.au/

   Without better industry focus realising the potential $64Bn per year national uplift is not likely to be achieved.

2. **Does the DAT Act improve information flows between public sector bodies and accredited entities?**

   There appear to be adequate safeguards in enabling information flows, but whether this makes it more likely for data to be shared is not clear. Making it <u>easier</u> to share (in addition to being safe to share) would increase improve information flows, especially with industry and business.

3. **How does the DAT Act add value in the wider data sharing context?**

   The DAT Act adds value in the wider data sharing context by addressing key sharing barriers. It is not so clear whether it adds sufficient value in promoting data sharing, especially with industry and business.

4. **What changes could be made to the DAT Act or the DATA Scheme to make it more effective in facilitating access to, sharing and use of public sector data**

    a. The objects of the Act imply but do not explicitly require a holistic approach across all levels of government <u>and the private sector.</u> We recommend this becomes an explicit element of the Act.

    b. The Act should increase consideration beyond making available existing data sets available, some of which are very useful, to identifying gaps in critical data gaps that should be filled.

5. Should the DAT Act be allowed to sunset?

Definitely not. Data availability and transparency is critical for Australia's productivity and transition to a net zero economy.

We are in the early days of achieving that, starting off by concentrating on the data we have primarily in the government sector and for use by the government sector.

There is considerable work to be done, even there, but a lot more in engaging industry, accessing and sharing more diverse data sources, especially where we have critical data gaps and increasing data sharing velocity by make it easier to find and access.

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IoT Alliance Australia (IoTAA), https://iot.org.au/ is the peak industry body representing the Internet of Things (IoT) in Australia with over 300 participating organisations and 1000 individual participants We strive for a 'Data Smart Australia' to raise our nations' productivity and sustainability through trusted and accessible IoT and AIoT technologies.