



NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Our reference: [REDACTED]

30 May 2025

DAT Act Review Team

By email: DATActReview@finance.gov.au

Statutory Review of the Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022

The National Archives of Australia (National Archives) provides the following comments in response to the terms of reference.

- **Does the DAT Act support improved public sector data availability and transparency, including sharing public sector data in a controlled way?**

National Archives has received no requests under the DATA scheme and therefore shared no additional public sector data under the DAT Act. National Archives provides access to records identified as Commonwealth records under the *Archives Act 1983*.

The DAT Act sets out a framework that provides accountable, secure and controlled mechanisms for sharing public sector data, that improves availability and transparency. It is an additional mechanism for providing access to public sector data alongside the *Archives Act 1983* and other legislation.

- **Has the operation of the DAT Act advanced its objects?**

The impact of the implementation of the DAT Act on National Archives has been minimal and it is therefore difficult to comment on whether the DAT Act has advanced its objectives. National Archives continues to see an increase in demand for access to Commonwealth records which could indicate an appetite for easier ways for the public to access public sector data.

- **How does the operation of the DAT Act compare and interact with other existing mechanisms for facilitating access to, sharing and use of public sector data?**

Most National Archives data demand is for archival collection material. This is accessible through our website hosted database which enables searching, viewing, and purchasing digital copies. Other National Archives data of interest to the public is generally available on our website, such as records authorities or information management standards.

Public sector data falls within the definition of a Commonwealth record under the *Archives Act 1983* and is therefore also subject to its requirements. The DAT Act and the corresponding DATA scheme are complementary legislative mechanisms to the requirements of the *Archives Act 1983* which provides for access to Commonwealth records. The DAT Act provides a mechanism for access to public sector data that is in current business use and the custody of a Commonwealth entity. This works alongside the *Archives Act* which provides for access to public sector data no longer required for immediate business use and in the custody of National Archives of Australia.

- **Stakeholder satisfaction with the operation of the DAT Act as a tool for reducing barriers and enabling effective access to, sharing and re-use of public sector data.**

National Archives is unable to comment on this aspect.

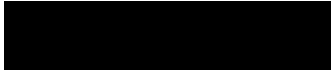
- **Should the DAT Act remain in force past its current sunset date of 1 April 2027?**

National Archives welcomes the existence of a mechanism, and a body to administer the Act such as the Office of the National Data Commissioner, which encourages agencies to share data for additional purposes. These support shared interests to build community trust in Australian Government by promoting transparent and ethical use and reuse of information assets. The principles promoted under the DATA scheme enabled by the Act help to build data governance and data management capability within the Australian Government.

- **Any other relevant matters.**

No other relevant matters.

Please contact my office if you require further information or wish to discuss further.



Simon Froude
Director-General