

20 May 2025

Dr Stephen King  
Independent Reviewer

Via email: [DATActReview@finance.gov.au](mailto:DATActReview@finance.gov.au)

Dear Dr King

**Submission to the Legislative Review of the Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022**

The University of Tasmania is pleased to provide a submission to the legislative review of the Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022 (the Act).

The University is supportive of the objectives of the Act, which aim to enhance the availability and transparency of public sector data, fostering innovation, research, and informed decision-making.

The Act's Data Sharing Scheme has significant potential to facilitate high-impact research and the advancement of knowledge. Access to government data in fields such as health and climate change will be critical to enabling the University to undertake vital research across the full breadth of societal challenges. We envisage that once the Scheme is fully operational, it should enable enhanced and consistent data access, improve collaboration between the higher education sector and government, streamline processes for data access, uplift data security and privacy, and support the development of government policy through evidence-based research.

The University recently became accredited under the Act as a data user but has not, to date, applied to access data under the Scheme. We would like to express our appreciation for the support provided to the University during the accreditation process by the Office of the Data Commissioner. Their guidance and assistance have been instrumental in navigating the complexities of the accreditation process and have allowed the University to identify opportunities for improvement within its internal settings.

We encourage continued emphasis on the Act's principles of sharing, accessibility, and transparency, and encourage all Australian Government entities to make their data available under the Scheme. This will enable the higher education sector to undertake critical research and to contribute meaningfully to public policy and government decision-making. It is critical that, as a nation, we maximise the value that can be unlocked from our collective data assets for societal impact, especially publicly funded data assets. Additionally, we recommend ongoing support and resources are developed for accredited entities to encourage streamlined access to and use of available data sources.

The University supports the continuation of the Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022. We look forward to further collaboration with the Office of the Data Commissioner and other stakeholders to achieve the Act's objectives.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Yours sincerely

**Professor Anthony Koutoulis**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)