



# Statement of Intent

## Purpose and role

The *Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022* (the Act) established the DATA Scheme and the National Data Commissioner — an independent statutory office holder whose functions include regulating the Scheme. The Commissioner is supported by the Office of the National Data Commissioner (ONDC), who are employees of the Department of Finance. The Commissioner's role as regulator of the Scheme, and ONDC's support, is distinct from the department's broader whole-of-government data responsibilities.

This Statement of Intent responds to the Minister for Finance's Statement of Expectations. It sets out how I, as acting National Data Commissioner, and the ONDC intend to meet the Minister's expectations, and exercise my functions and powers under the Act transparently and effectively, aligning with the principles of regulator best practice.

The issuing of this Statement of Intent coincides with and is cognisant of the recent completion of the statutory review of the Act (the review) and the Government's consideration of a response.

## Continuity in current functions

We will maintain confidence and continuity in administering the current framework by undertaking the following actions.

- Exercising my regulatory, advice, guidance and education and support related functions under the Act as necessary.
- Maintaining public registers of accredited users, accredited data service providers and data sharing agreements.
- Maintaining timeliness of accreditation assessments, support for data sharing requests and complaints handling.
- Preparing and publishing annual reports on the operation of the DATA Scheme.
- Continuing to provide and support the Dataplace platform and the Australian Government Data Catalogue.
- Providing clear, timely and consistent communications and engagement with Scheme entities and key stakeholders to support stability and confidence.
- Maintaining ONDC organisational capability and continuity as Scheme regulator, providing clear direction and communications to staff throughout this transitional period.
- Focusing resources where they are most needed, consistent with the current constrained fiscal environment.



## Support the Government's review response

We will contribute to development of the Government's review response while maintaining regulatory independence by undertaking the following actions.

- Ensuring our decisions and actions do not pre-empt Government decisions.
- Identifying aspects of the operation of the Scheme for improvement, drawing on knowledge and practical experience within ONDC, and our understanding of the context in which the Scheme operates.
- Providing practical insights on the operation of the Scheme and relevant data and analysis.

## Reform readiness

We will prepare the office and stakeholders for reforms arising from the review.

Once the Government has settled its approach, we will engage with Scheme entities to inform and consult with them about any reforms and their implications. We will support Scheme entities with any required transitions.

We will contribute to implementation of agreed reforms as appropriate. This will include responding to priority areas for implementation planning or system adjustment.

## Regulatory approach

We will uphold the principles of regulator best practice outlined in the *Regulatory Policy, Practice and Performance Framework* and act in accordance with the principles of regulator best practice outlined in *Resource Management Guide 128: Regulator Performance*. In particular, we will:

- Act with independence, integrity, and transparency in all regulatory activities.
- Apply a risk-based and proportionate approach to regulation.
- Support economic growth and productivity by minimising unnecessary regulatory burden and enabling innovation.
- Engage openly and constructively with stakeholders, fostering trust and collaboration.
- Communicate expectations, requirements, and changes clearly to all Scheme entities and stakeholders.
- Ensure decisions and actions are evidence-based, consistent, and clearly documented.
- Promote continuous improvement by regularly reviewing regulatory practices, seeking feedback and cooperating with other relevant regulators.



## Reporting and transparency

We will provide regular updates to the Minister through the ONDC annual report and a mid-year report to the Minister on accreditation activities and data sharing agreements.

The Minister's Statement of Expectations and this Statement of Intent will be published on our website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Lalor".

**Andrew Lalor**

**Acting National Data Commissioner**

16 January 2026