

Australian Cyber Security Strategy - Discussion Paper

Apr 13, 2023

Who is de.iterate

de.iterate is a local Australian business providing compliance solutions to small and growing businesses in Australia. Our leading compliance platform is tailored for small businesses to achieve information security certification and demonstrate maturity through the adoption of a simple, digital assurance program.

We thank the Government and the Expert Advisory Board for the release of the discussion paper, and for the opportunity to submit our views.

Discussion Paper Questions:

- *What assistance do small businesses need from the government to manage their cyber security risks to keep their data and their customers' data safe?*
- *What ideas would you like to see included in the Strategy to make Australia the most cyber secure nation in the world by 2030?*
- *What legislative or regulatory reforms should Government pursue to: enhance cyber resilience across the digital economy?*
- *What is the appropriate mechanism for reforms to improve mandatory operational cyber security standards across the economy (e.g. legislation, regulation, or further regulatory guidance)?*
- *Should Australia consider a Cyber Security Act, and what should this include?*
- *What opportunities are available for government to enhance Australia's cyber security technologies ecosystem and support the uptake of cyber security services and technologies in Australia?*

de.iterate comments

de.iterate helps small and growing businesses implement sustainable compliance. We see from real-world experience that motivated Aussie businesses are quick to rise to the challenge and can adopt simple changes to existing ways of working, to demonstrate cyber security maturity quickly and effectively.

We can see from examples in other jurisdictions like New Zealand and the European Union that the adoption of stronger data security standards builds trust in organisations and increases international business opportunities.

The lack of strong data security and privacy legislation in Australia means that Aussie businesses are increasingly overlooked on the international stage. For Australian businesses wanting to build trust, we are frequently forced to host operations offshore, creating a missed opportunity for Australia to grow its domestic digital economy.

The Australian Government should mandate minimum data security standards for all businesses regardless of size or industry through legislation. Data security standards don't have to be burdensome. They should be risk-based, internationally recognised, and easily accessible. The International Standards Organization (ISO) suite of standards cover Information Security, Information Privacy, and evolving topics such as Artificial Intelligence and Energy Management.

The Australian Government could help enhance Australia's ecosystems with the development of an incentive-based scheme which rewards Australian businesses for investing in domestic cyber security solutions that employ locally, rather than rewarding international enterprises that operate substantially offshore.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to this important topic. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact us directly.

Kind regards,

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