

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**25 June 2021**

**AIIA calls for a Made in Australia Office to be established  
in the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet**

*AIIA releases [Domestic Capability: Framework Policy](#) to help drive Australia's economic growth*

Australia's peak industry representative body for innovation technology, the Australian Information Industry Association ([AIIA](#)) is calling for a Made in Australia Office (MIAO) to be established in the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet (DPM&C).

The call comes as the AIIA releases its [Domestic Capability: Framework Policy](#) urging Government to take a more strategic approach to achieving domestic digital capability. The report focuses on the programs, initiatives and related policies required to enhance domestic capability which includes the investments of multinational tech companies in Australia as well as boosting Australian companies.

The AIIA recognises that domestic capabilities, especially within the ICT sector - are an essential driver of Australia's economic growth, as Australia continues to focus on becoming a leading digital economy by 2030. The ICT sector can play a crucial role in Australia's digital capability and promote a strong and skilled domestic workforce.

One of many recommendations made in the report by the AIIA includes the MIAO which would have a mandate to establish a list of strategically important information industry capabilities (domestic capability priorities) to support critical industries and to determine which of those are available from Australian suppliers.

Through having the MIAO sitting centrally in the DPM&C it can also advocate within government the importance of supporting Australian businesses and their adoption of new and secure digital and information industry technologies.

The AIIA DC Framework also calls on Australian companies sitting in the ASX 200 to understand more about their technology supply chains and where they may be exposed in the next crisis and look to report annually on their technology supply chains.

AIIA CEO, Mr Ron Gauci said: "The need to consider Australia's domestic capabilities has been highlighted in the past year. Australia needs to support local capabilities and skills to ensure we have economic resiliency and business continuity to ensure the economy can face future challenges. A concerted national effort is needed to audit our national information industry skills, review what can be achieved in Australia and to plan how the government can support the adoption and growth of these skills.

"Through government identification of our required capabilities, the nation can support industry to retain and grow these skills. A highly skilled domestic workforce is needed to support Australia's digital capability and grow the economy. Australia's ICT sector is overly reliant on overseas labour therefore it is important we nurture and build a strong ICT workforce to be able to protect our economy," said Mr. Gauci.

Australia's Cyber Security Strategy 2020 identified a range of industries as critical to Australia's security, economy and sovereignty, including industries such as; banking and finance, communications, defence industry, energy, health and water. The AIIA has identified a range of

Domestic Information Industry Capabilities that are required to support Australia's critical industries. These include; cyber and information security, software development, data infrastructure, cloud technologies, batteries, artificial intelligence, machine learning and quantum computing.

"Digital technologies now are at the heart of everything we do. Technology and innovation have changed the way many industries operate. The future of the Australian economy will be led by digital technology and it is vital governments embrace this to maximise its potential. By investing in Australia's ICT sector, governments and leading companies will demonstrate their commitment to growing Australia's economy and building a lasting legacy," concluded Mr Gauci.

**The AIIA proposes the following recommendations to help shift the "cultural cringe" by giving a clear signal on the value Government places on local industry and building domestic capability:** (for the full report please go to [Domestic Capability: Framework Policy](#))

- A. Establish a "Made in Australia" Office in PM&C
- B. Build a coordinated effort, across the federal and state governments to focus on increasing domestic capabilities
- C. Introduce Retained Economic Benefits criteria in Government Procurement for goods and Services aligned to domestic capability priorities
- D. Develop a 5 year plan for building domestic capability priorities that includes:
  - o Industry capability studies linked to a clear vision for Australia's information industry to independently support critical industries
- E. For the Federal Government to create a Digital Restart Fund
- F. Incorporate ICT procurement reporting baseline for all ASX listed organisations

The AIIA is a not-for-profit organisation aimed at fuelling Australia's future social and economic prosperity through technology innovation.

**ENDS**

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**About AIIA**

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) is Australia's peak representative body and advocacy group for those in the digital ecosystem. Since 1978 AIIA has pursued activities to stimulate and grow the digital ecosystem, to create a favourable business environment for members and to contribute to Australia's economic prosperity. We do this by delivering outstanding member value by providing a strong voice of influence; building a sense of community through events and education; enabling a network for collaboration and inspiration; and developing compelling content and relevant and interesting information.