

**MEDIA STATEMENT**  
**1 JUNE 2022**

**AIIA REACTION TO FIRST ALBANESE MINISTRY**

Australia's peak body for innovation technology, the Australian Information Industry Association ([AIIA](#)), welcomes the announcement of the Albanese Government's federal ministry. The AIIA is pleased to see cabinet level ministers appointed across portfolios who are critical to Australia's growth.

As critical and digital technologies are core to both our economic prosperity and national security, and with significant skills shortages impeding the growth of the innovation and ICT industries, the AIIA looks forward to working closely with the newly sworn-in ministers to grow Australia's economy.

**AIIA CEO, Mr Ron Gauci** said: "The AIIA is pleased to see a range of Cabinet-level ministers responsible for the digital economy appointed. The Labor party has committed to a range of policies that promise strong support for Australia's ICT and innovation sectors, including measures to help address the significant skills shortage the industry is facing and to support our critical technologies.

"We look forward to reading the forthcoming Administrative Arrangement Orders to understand which Minister is responsible for the Digital Transformation Agency and whether the Digital Economy Taskforce will continue to exist and if so which Minister has responsibility. We see a strong need for a coordinated cross-government and economy lens on digital to support Australia's third largest industry so it is disappointing to see the Digital Economy Minister being dropped from the Albanese Ministry.

"We look forward to working with Ministers including The Hon. Bill Shorten MP to further digitise government services, The Hon. Ed Husic MP to support our industry growth and critical technologies and execute on AI and Quantum Strategies, The Hon. Clare O'Neil MP on cyber security and ransomware regulation and The Hon. Brendan O'Connor to deliver Labor's policies to support the skills shortage impacting our sector. It is important to remember the broad influence digital and innovation technology has across all economic sectors and the AIIA will continue championing innovation technology across Australia with all relevant ministers.

"Continuity in the Industry portfolio, working with The Hon. Ed Husic MP into the future, is certainly something our members are looking forward to. Minister Husic is well-versed in the sector and has strong relations with the tech industry so we are confident he will deliver the stated commitments of the Government.

"Australia has the opportunity to become a leading digital economy if the Government adopts appropriate policies to deliver this. Addressing our skills shortage and supporting innovation technologies is key to growing employment and the economy. We are impressed by the calibre of ministers appointed and will work with them to advocate and grow Australia's innovation technology and digital economy.

*The AIIA is a not-for-profit organisation aimed at fuelling Australia's future social and economic prosperity through tech innovation and remains committed to working with all levels of Government to secure Australia's digital future.*

**ENDS**

**For media enquiries:**

**Simon Bush**  
M: 0417 642 200

E: [Simon@aiia.com.au](mailto:Simon@aiia.com.au)

**Michael Banks**

M: 0418 862 545

E: michael.banks@thrivepr.com.au

**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; developing compelling content and relevant and interesting information.