




THE HON STEPHEN JONES MP
ASSISTANT TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES

Ref: MS24-001212

7 August 2024

Mr Andrew Stevens
Data Standards Chair
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Mr Stevens 

I am writing to you to outline the Australian Government's expectations in relation to how you perform the functions and exercise your powers as the Data Standards Chair in relation to the Consumer Data Right (CDR).

As part of resetting the direction of the CDR, the Government will be focussing on unlocking high-value use cases and ensuring consistency with Digital ID.

Use cases that are the highest priority are those relating to borrowing decisions, energy switching, and accounting services to small businesses. Use cases for budget management purposes should also continue to be supported.

The Government expects your forward work agenda to align with that of the Government to ensure delivery of the reset direction. The Government expects you to:

- Focus efforts in respect to standards changes in the following areas:
 - *Information security* – to consider changes to uplift authentication standards to ensure CDR keeps pace with international and industry best practice.
 - *Consent drop-offs* – to understand what technical issues are driving consent drop-offs and consider whether any further standards changes are required given the importance of consent completion for facilitating consumer use.
 - *Giving effect to rule changes* – to make standards changes which give effect to the rule changes made by Government.
 - *Critical standards changes in respect of consumer data* – where required to operationalise the identified high-value use cases or to manage costs in the system.

Consistent with our objective of increasing consumer benefits, reducing compliance costs and improving consumer use cases, the Government expects standards changes should be:

- prioritised, consulted on and scheduled in a more transparent and orderly manner, and

- be implemented cognisant of the likely benefits for consumers and the cost impact on participants.

I note the valuable work you have already undertaken to develop the soon to be finalised Standards Assessment Framework.

Consistent with existing processes, proposed standards changes additional to those above should be considered by the CDR Steering Committee in the first instance to ensure changes align with overall Government direction and the work of other CDR agencies.

- Continue to make greater use of experiments to test where changes to standards, rules or policy could enable uptake. Experiments should be identified and progressed in collaboration with Treasury to ensure they align with the Government's agenda and future CDR work, and should primarily focus on the identified high-value use cases.

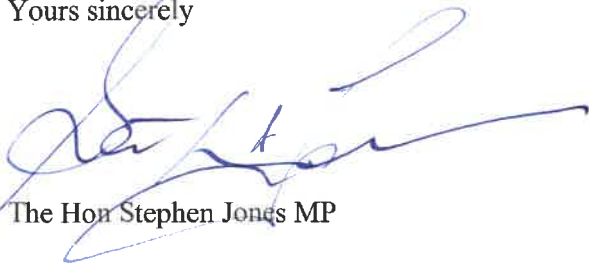
I note and support existing work with Treasury on experiments in the areas of energy switching and real estate agent applications. This work supports the Government's and Treasury's consideration of how action initiation can be progressed in the framework, as well as the interoperability with Digital ID.

- Consider opportunities to build upon the common elements of CDR and Digital ID to facilitate the safe realisation of high-value use cases.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on establishing the CDR as critical piece of digital infrastructure for Australia.

I have copied this letter to the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP, Treasurer, and Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance.

Yours sincerely



The Hon Stephen Jones MP