OGF Nomination for James Horton

Selection Criteria:

Demonstrated support of OGP vision and the Open Government Declaration.

I am a member of OGP Civil Society Network Steering Committee and have been involved with the Interim Working Group and PM&C consultations on the form and functions of the Open Government Forum (OGF). In this capacity, I have also been engaged in consultations with the PM&C Task Force that is currently reviewing the recommendations of Productivity Commission Report on Data Availability and Use (PCDAU).

My support for the work of the OGP initially arose in 2014 as consequence of research I was undertaking for Lateral Economics on the value of Open Data to the Australian economy. The report, "Open for Business" was commissioned by Omidyar Network.

Expertise relevant to the OGP, inc. existing or probable future OGP-Au commitments.

I bring to the OGF more than 25 years of expertise in data ethics, governance and management, and associated data technologies. This has been formed through diverse institutional and civil society experiences across public and private sectors; industries, ranging from taxation and healthcare to telecommunications, retail, banking and logistics; and, geographically, across Australia, NZ and the wider Asia Pacific region.

Furthermore, I offer a deep understanding of the opportunities and risks associated with undertaking data-driven reforms - particularly as they relate to current OGP commitments and influence future ones.

Ability to engage broad and diverse community networks.

I bring to the OGF established personal, professional and social media networks, across a range of data related communities. These encompass interest groups associated with open data, data science, digital identity and privacy.

My speaking engagements this year have included: the Melbourne Law School, Melbourne Data Science Conference, W3C Conference, Pause Conference and APIdays.

My wider community and civil society network engagements include: Mental Health (10 Year Mental Health Plan and VMIAC); and, Research (DSSRN (UniMelb) and Centre for Data Science (Monash))

Previous experience working with and influencing government.

My interest and experiences with working with and influencing government were initially founded on seminal experiences in the early 1990's leading a vendor team "embedded" in the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) Modernisation Program. The resulting adaptation of (now topical) data matching infrastructure from Centrelink (formerly DSS) led to the ATO into pioneering an innovative approach to data analysis on an institutional scale.

More recently, my relationships and influence have been with the Victorian Government, as well as specific data-oriented organisations such as NSW Data Analytics Centre and Data16.

Ability to address the desirability of maintaining some continuity between successive Forums, balanced with the desirability of reaching new communities and reflecting emerging open government priorities.

My current engagement on the OGP Civil Society Network Steering Committee affords valuable continuity of knowledge and relationships across successive Forums - particularly so at this formative period in the establishment and implementation of Australia's OGP commitments.