



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

# Open Government Partnership Meeting of the Inter-Departmental Committee

2:00pm – 3:30pm, Wednesday 5 July 2017

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

John Starling Room, Ground Floor, One National Circuit, Barton

## MINUTES

### ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation	Dial in
Kathryn Ovington	Attorney-General's Department	
Claire Stephens	Attorney-General's Department	
Autumn O'Keefe	Attorney-General's Department	
Elizabeth Edye	Department of Environment	
Kayelle Drinkwater	Department of Finance	
Damian Carmichael	Department of Industry, Innovation and Science	
Iain Kendall	Department of Industry, Innovation and Science	
Nick Newhouse	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	
Allan Barger	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	
Naomi Gilbert	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	
Brendon Buckley (Chair)	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	
Alan Wu	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	
Phillippa Higgs	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	
Ruth Chau	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	
Jodi Keall	Department of Treasury	Y
Catherine Russell	Digital Transformation Agency	
Jared Mitchell	Digital Transformation Agency	
Roxane-Marcelle-Shaw	NSW Information and Privacy Commission	Y
Raewyn Harlock	Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	Y
<b>IWG Civil Society Members</b>		
Katherine Szuminska	OpenAustralia Foundation	Y
Peter Timmins	Australian OGP Civil Society Network	Y
Ken Coghill	Monash University	Y

## 1. **Welcome and Introductions**

PM&C welcomed members to the Inter-departmental Committee meeting and provided an outline of the agenda. Members were invited to introduce themselves.

## 2. **Overview and Update**

### a.) **PM&C Update**

PM&C provided an update on key developments since the release of the Government's National Action Plan in December 2016. It was noted that PM&C would facilitate a comprehensive public reporting on the delivery of commitments through release of the beta version of the new OGP website and dashboard (see item 4 below).

The IDC **noted** the PM&C Update and **discussed** opportunities to raise awareness of the Open Government Partnership when delivering their commitments.

### b.) **Commitment Updates**

PM&C invited members to provide an update on the status of their agency's commitments. Members discussed implementation and delivery of commitments, including successes, lessons and opportunities. Agencies were encouraged to raise awareness of the Open Government Partnership and to engage more with the public when delivering on their commitments. Members acknowledged the benefits of effective engagement and consultation with the public.

In response to a query regarding the timeliness of the delivery of commitments, PM&C advised members that timelines would be reported publicly and if there are delays to the delivery of milestones, it is important to be upfront and transparent.

## 3. **Delivery of commitments**

### a.) **Guidance for agencies in implementing commitments (civil society representatives)**

Ms. Katherine Szuminska, Dr Ken Coghill, and Mr Peter Timmins (civil society members of the Interim Working Group) spoke to the *Guidance for agencies in implementing commitments* document (Guidance document) and outlined their expectations of agencies, including that agencies should strive to meet the guidance at a minimum, but take every opportunity to do more than specified. All three members acknowledged the importance of the Guidance document.

The three civil society members also advised of the need for government and civil society to adopt a collaborative approach every step of the way in the implementation and delivery of commitments. IDC members were also urged to ensure that information regarding their commitment status and updates were made more publicly available and easier to access.

Civil society members encouraged feedback from IDC members in regards to the utility and practicality of the Guidance document – in particular if the advice is realistic, practical and straightforward as we move forward in implementing the commitments.

**b.) Commitment 5.2 - Enhanced Public Participation in Government Decision Making (Damien Carmichael)**

Mr. Damian Carmichael (Department of Industry) provided an update on development of a new Australian Public Service-wide Framework to improve public participation and engagement (Commitment 5.2 - Milestone 2).

Damian outlined the Department of Industry's progress and shared initial findings on when and how best to engage the broader community from user interviews conducted with the community and government agencies. They expect to publish the initial findings shortly.

**4. Next Steps**

**a.) OGPAU Website**

PM&C provided an update on the progress of the new OGPAU website. The website was shown to members in-session. PM&C informed members that the website had been further refined based on input provided by the IDC and they – along with civil society members - will be shortly given the opportunity to provide feedback before the site goes live.

The IDC noted agencies will need to provide timely and meaningful updates on delivery of National Action Plan commitments on the new PM&C dashboard

**b.) Open Government Forum**

PM&C provided an update on the progress of the implementation of the Open Government Forum, advising that the IWG made recommendations on how the new Forum was to be structured, governed and run. The Open Government Selection Panel will shortly make recommendations to Government on nominations. The first meeting of the Open Government Forum is scheduled for 28 July 2017.

**c.) Interim Self-Assessment Process**

PM&C informed the IDC of the Interim Self-Assessment Process - a mid-term self-assessment of how OGPAU are tracking against the National Action Plan commitments. The Interim Self-Assessment will be followed by an Independent Reporting Mechanism process whereby an independent researcher (Daniel Stewart – senior law lecturer at the ANU College of Law) will assess Australia's progress against the Plan.

**d.) Development of second National Action Plan (2018 – 2020)**

PM&C informed the IDC that the development of the second National Action Plan would be driven by the Open Government Forum and will need to be ready to implemented by 1 July 2018

**Close**

The meeting closed at 3.40pm. There is no set date for the next IDC.

**Action: OGP Secretariat will advise when the next IDC will be held.**

**Action: OGP Secretariat will upload these minutes to the OGPAU website**