

National Enabling Technologies Strategy

Comments on the discussion paper

1. The purpose of the strategy needs to be clearly articulated.

An appropriate statement of purpose is:

To facilitate and support the safe adoption and use of products using new technologies for the social and economic benefit of Australia.

2. From this statement the following flows

a) The proactive development of a broad overarching regulatory framework to provide guidance to companies, jurisdictions and agencies for the release of products using new technologies.

b) The framework is to facilitate the beneficial and safe release of products while minimising the regulatory burden

c) To guide a product based risk assessment process that includes consideration of the public health, social aspects and environmental impacts of the products including an independent review. This process should not be technology based.

d) A publicly oriented awareness and education Program that is aimed at demonstrating that regulatory oversight is in place and continuing to build trust in the system and technologies.

e) A fore-sighting process to identify emerging and converging technologies and systems that allows the proactive re-shaping of frameworks and processes as needed.

f) Monitoring and contributing to international developments in these processes.

g) Ensuring that Australia has appropriate measurement and technical capacity to support any regulatory programs.

3. It would seem inappropriate for Government to develop business directories, technology directories or other knowledge systems without a clear purpose in mind and awareness of the availability of information from other sources.

4. Given the funds available, the objectives should be modest.

5. Any activity should be outcome and product oriented, not technology driven.

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