
From: Kate Pounder s 22 @c-openai.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 3:21 PM
To: s 22
Subject: Re: Confidential briefing [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi there,

I wanted to give you a quick update that Minister Chanthivong, the NSW Innovation Minister, has also provided a quote welcoming the office announcement as it will be located in NSW.

They asked that their quote be put into the media release. It will also have one from Matt Comyn, and possibly a local start-up.

It's no issue at all for us to refer journos to your media email for quotes. I just wanted to make sure you knew the other people commenting will all be in the release in case you would also like to be included in that scenario.

Best,

Kate

On Mon, Aug 25, 2025 at 10:09 AM s 22

@industry.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi Kate,

Thanks for the early heads up. Journalists can contact the office on media.ayres@industry.gov.au if they would like a comment from Minister Ayres.

s 22

OFFICIAL

From: Kate Pounder s 22 @c-openai.com>
Sent: Friday, 22 August 2025 9:32 AM

To: s 22 @industry.gov.au>
Subject: Confidential briefing

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s 22

Hope you are well. This is commercially confidential, but I wanted to advise that OpenAI is planning to announce on 26 August that we are opening an Australian office.

It will also form part of a global announcement about the next wave of international investment. India and Brazil are the other two priority countries we're announcing.

I have attached a brief on the announcement. We are likely to give the story to a local journalist as an exclusive and then release the announcement to media in Australia.

If Minister Ayres would be interested in making a comment we would be grateful to be able to advise journalists to contact the office.

We were going to reference the trade visit last week by Ambassador Rudd and AM Charlton as the person making the global announcement met with them.

If you or anyone in your team would like to discuss this / ask questions just let me know.

Best,

Kate

From: Kate Pounder s 22 @c-openai.com>
Sent: Monday, 25 August 2025 11:50 AM
To: s 22
Subject: Re: Confidential briefing [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi there,

One quick update - the announcement will now be Thursday as that is the date of the global announcement. I have passed your message to the media team.

Do you have a sense of what the comment will be?

Best,

K

s 22

From: Kate Pounder ^{s 22} @c-openai.com>
Sent: Thursday, 4 December 2025 7:57 PM
To: ^{s 22}; El-Asmar, Candice; ^{s 22} Chloe
Browne; Kate Lord; Anne-Louise Brown; ^{s 22}
@treasury.gov.au
Subject: Re: Draft rundown for Friday announcement event
Attachments: LATEST DRAFT OAI 4 Australia blog.pdf; FINAL_Press Release_ Skills
Announcement.pdf

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi everyone,

Really looking forward to tomorrow.

We've attached the updated media release and blog post text.

There's just a few minor changes, e.g. we've taken out the space for a government quote and slightly adjusted the figure on no. people being trained.

Let us know if you have any questions.

K

On Thu, Dec 4, 2025 at 3:02 PM Kate Pounder ^{s 22} @c-openai.com> wrote:

Hi everyone,

Please find attached OpenAI's draft media releases and run sheet for tomorrow's announcements.

Note for the media release we have two documents:

- + A global blog post
- + A local media release

The release and post are technically still in draft as we get the final sign-off on our end, but we don't expect any material changes.

If there are, we'll let you know ASAP and will have the final media release through ASAP.

Really appreciate your patience and collaboration - tomorrow is going to be great.

If you do have any questions, feel free to call me on ^{s 22}, or Chloe on ^{s 22} Also happy to schedule a call for today if that helps.

Best,

Kate

On Thu, Dec 4, 2025 at 9:47 AM Kate Pounder [s 22](#) @c-openai.com> wrote:
Hi everyone,

Thank you for your patience.

In strict confidence, I'm attaching a brief summarising the initiatives in our OpenAI for Australia plan, to be announced tomorrow with your Ministers and via the press release.

Chloe and her media team will also share our draft announcement / press release (we announce it globally via a blog, as well as via a local release).

Very happy to do a call this morning / today to walk you through it.

We'll also send a more detailed runsheet today.

Best,

Kate

On Wed, Dec 3, 2025 at 6:48 PM Kate Pounder [s 22](#) @c-openai.com> wrote:
Hi [s 22](#) [s 22](#) Candice and [s 22](#)

We wanted to share with you the draft rundown for the OpenAI for Countries announcement event on Friday.

This includes the times, locations, and a draft plan for the event itself and the press conference.

We are very happy to talk this through with you to take suggestions on board.

We also have a brief and draft announcement to share with you. We will send that tomorrow morning as we're just checking some final points but the people we need to confirm them are on a flight at the moment.

Best,

Kate

OpenAI

Introducing OpenAI for Australia

Today, we're launching OpenAI for Australia, a nationwide initiative bringing OpenAI together with local partners to unlock the full economic and societal benefits of artificial intelligence across the country.

AI is a foundational technology with the potential to support growth, lift productivity, and fuel innovation. To help realize this vision, OpenAI will work with local partners through OpenAI for Australia—the first OpenAI for Countries program in the Asia Pacific region—to support sovereign AI infrastructure, upskill Australians, and accelerate Australia's thriving local AI ecosystem.

Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, said, "Australia is well placed to be a global leader in AI, with deep technical talent, strong institutions and a clear ambition to use new technology to lift productivity. Through OpenAI for Australia, we are focused on accelerating the infrastructure, workforce skills and local ecosystem needed to turn that opportunity into long-term economic growth."

Building the next generation of sovereign AI infrastructure in Australia

OpenAI today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NEXTDC to develop a sovereign AI infrastructure partnership under the OpenAI for Australia program.

Through the MoU, OpenAI and NEXTDC will collaborate on the planning, development and operation of a next-generation hyperscale AI campus and large-scale GPU supercluster at NEXTDC's S7 site in Eastern Creek, Sydney.

OpenAI intends to be an initial offtaker with the option to scale over time under the OpenAI for Countries program. This would provide Australia with the sovereign compute capacity needed to support sensitive and mission-critical workloads across government, enterprise, research and national infrastructure.

S7 is expected to deliver significant economic benefits, including multi-year construction activity supporting thousands of skilled and indirect jobs, long-term technical and operational roles in AI and digital infrastructure, expanded opportunities for Australian manufacturers, engineers and suppliers, accelerated AI adoption across industry and government, and strengthened STEM and AI-skills development pathways.

Upskilling Australians alongside CommBank, Coles, and Westfarmers

OpenAI also today announced a new skills initiative, joining forces with CommBank, Coles and Westfarmers — three of Australia's largest employers and most trusted household names — to roll out essential AI skills training to more than 1.2 million Australian workers and small businesses.

AI represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to lift Australia’s productivity, competitiveness and long-term economic growth. Realising that opportunity at scale depends not just on infrastructure, but on whether Australia’s workforce has the skills and confidence to use these tools in everyday work.

Through OpenAI Academy, OpenAI’s AI-literacy training platform designed to make foundational AI skills accessible to everyone, Coles and Wesfarmers will rollout tailored training programs to their entire workforces, equipping them with the practical skills they need to thrive in the AI era, while Commonwealth Bank will make their training modules available for 1 million small business customers across Australia.

OpenAI’s in-house team of AI experts will work closely with these organisations to develop bespoke learning modules tailored to real-world Australian use cases.

Nationwide rollout of OpenAI Academy courses, created with these three organisations, will begin in 2026, marking one of the largest coordinated AI-skills initiatives in Australia’s history.

CommBank CEO Matt Comyn said: “Small businesses are the backbone of Australia’s economy and the engine of our communities, but too many small business owners tell us they simply don’t have the time or confidence to explore how AI could help them. We want every small business to feel confident using digital technologies such as AI, whether they’re starting, running, or growing their business.”

Accelerating Australian tech innovation

From Canva to Atlassian to SafetyCulture, Australia is home to some of the biggest start-up success stories in global tech, producing more billion-dollar startups per VC dollar than any other country in the world.

We’re seeing that ingenuity show up in how quickly Australian businesses are adopting advanced AI and creating new products and services on top of our platform.

To accelerate Australia’s potential for home-grown innovation, OpenAI will launch its first startup program in Australia, delivered in partnership with leading Australian venture capital firms including Blackbird, Square Peg and AirTree.

Through this program, OpenAI will provide participating start-ups with up to USD \$15,000 in API credits, technical mentorship from OpenAI engineers and global experts, and access to workshops on scaling, compliance and safety. Startups can also receive additional credits when they participate in technical workshops.

OpenAI is also launching an annual Founder Day in Australia to bring together the next generation of Australian entrepreneurs for hands-on product deep dives, demos and guidance as they build alongside OpenAI.

ENDS

OpenAI

OpenAI joins forces with CommBank, Coles and Wesfarmers to upskill over 1.2 million Australian workers and small businesses

Sydney, Australia—Friday 5th December, 2025: OpenAI, together with three of Australia’s largest employers, today announced a landmark national initiative to rapidly lift the country’s AI readiness, with a joint commitment to upskill over 1.2 million Australian workers and small businesses.

OpenAI’s in-house team of AI experts will work closely with these organisations to develop bespoke learning modules tailored to real-world Australian use cases.

Leveraging OpenAI Academy, OpenAI’s AI-literacy training platform designed to make foundational AI skills accessible to everyone, Coles and Wesfarmers will rollout tailored training programs to their entire workforces, equipping them with the practical skills they need to thrive in the AI era, while Commonwealth Bank will make their training modules available for 1 million small business customers.

OpenAI Chief Strategy Officer Jason Kwon, said: *“Australia is at a pivotal moment, uniquely positioned to lead the world in AI. Education will be central to unlocking the full opportunity ahead, and major employers have a critical role to play in ensuring their people are equipped with the skills to thrive in an AI-powered future. We’re proud to stand alongside these iconic Australian organisations to help millions of workers and businesses harness the full potential of this once-in-a-generation shift.”*

In August, CommBank announced a multi-year strategic partnership with OpenAI to bring advanced generative AI capabilities to its customers and employees. Engineers from both organisations are collaborating on solutions to strengthen scam and fraud detection and deliver more personalised services. CommBank has also equipped many of its 48,000-strong workforce with ChatGPT enterprise. CBA will now launch a national AI training and skilling program for its business customer base, empowering more than 1 million Australian businesses to accelerate productivity and growth.

CommBank CEO Matt Comyn said: *“Small businesses are the backbone of Australia’s economy and the engine of our communities, but too many small business owners tell us they simply don’t have the time or confidence to explore how AI could help them.”*

OpenAI

“We want every small business to feel confident using digital technologies such as AI, whether they’re starting, running, or growing their business.”

Employing more than 115,000 Australians, Coles is the first major retailer in the country to deploy GPT-5-powered tools to corporate teams to speed up research, reduce admin, surface insights and fuel innovation. Coles and OpenAI are also exploring how AI could reshape the shopping experience, from planning and purchasing to checkout.

Coles CEO Leah Weckert said: *“AI is quickly reshaping how we work and communicate. Building AI and digital skills across more Australians, whatever their background or experience with technology, is about inclusion and opportunity. For many of our 115,000 team members, this program will open new skills and help them use AI with greater confidence in their future careers and in their personal lives.”*

Wesfarmers, home to iconic household brands including Bunnings, Kmart, Target, Priceline and Officeworks, will bring OpenAI Academy training to its 118,000 team members. This will expand access to future-ready skills across one of Australia’s most diverse workforces with businesses from home improvement to health and lithium to fertilisers. This builds on Wesfarmers’ existing adoption of AI across areas such as demand forecasting, product design, customer service and experience and conversational commerce.

Wesfarmers Managing Director and CEO Rob Scott said: *“Australia needs to adopt AI-driven solutions to remain globally competitive and to help deliver growth in the long term. We’re really pleased to be providing access to OpenAI training for all our team members across the Group. Strengthening AI and technology skills will help our teams work smarter and faster, lifting productivity and delivering better customer experiences.”*

Nationwide rollout of OpenAI Academy courses, created with these three organisations, will begin in 2026, marking one of the largest coordinated AI-skills initiatives in Australia’s history.

This forms part of OpenAI for Australia, a nationwide initiative bringing OpenAI together with local partners to unlock the full economic and societal benefits of artificial intelligence across the country. This includes:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NEXTDC to develop a sovereign AI infrastructure partnership under the OpenAI for Australia program.
- The opening of OpenAI’s first Australian office in Sydney with a local team partnering side by side with business, government and institutions.
- The launch of a dedicated start-up program in Australia with leading VCs providing free API credits, technical mentorship and scaling support and the introduction of an annual OpenAI Founder Day.

OpenAI

ENDS

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Chloe Browne, OpenAI

s 22

[@openai.com](mailto:chloe@openai.com)

Anne-Louise Brown

s 22

[@akinagency.com.au](mailto:anne@akinagency.com.au)

Fran Foo

s 22

[@kickercomms.com](mailto:fran@kickercomms.com)

From: Sandy Kunvatanagarn @openai.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 February 2026 2:28 PM
To: s 22
Cc: s 22 @openai.com; Amelia Metcalf; Ivy Lau-Schindewolf; Foote, Jessica; s 22 ; El-Asmar, Candice; Wilson, Helen; Caitlin Searle - DFAT
Subject: Re: Opportunity to meet during the India AI Impact Summit [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s 22

I'm glad we could make this work.

We have an OpenAI lounge at the venue. Bharat Mandapam, OpenAI Exec Lounge, Hall 5, 1st floor, 5F.26 A&C. Please contact my colleague Kavitha at WhatsApp 9871946196.

Please let me know if the Asst Minister has specific topics he would like to discuss.

Cheers,

Sandy

On Mon, Feb 16, 2026 at 07:40 s 22

@industry.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi Sandy

Many thanks, and confirming that time (Wednesday 18th, 1430 – 1500) would work well for a meeting with Chris. We'll seek a room at the Summit venue and will come back to you with details.

Could you please send through best on the ground contact details to liaise with Chris and the team on the ground. My WhatsApp on the ground is s 22

Thanks

s 22

OFFICIAL

From: Sandy Kunvatanagarn ^{s 22} [@openai.com](mailto:sandy.kunvatanagarn@openai.com)>
Sent: Monday, 16 February 2026 12:49 AM
To: ^{s 22} [@industry.gov.au](mailto:sandy.kunvatanagarn@industry.gov.au)>
Cc: ^{s 22} [@openai.com](mailto:sandy.kunvatanagarn@openai.com); Amelia Metcalf ^{s 22} [@bourkestreetadvisory.com](mailto:amelia.metcalf@bourkestreetadvisory.com)>; Ivy Lau-Schindewolf ^{s 22} [@openai.com](mailto:ivy.lau@openai.com)>; Foote, Jessica ^{s 22} [@industry.gov.au](mailto:jessica.foote@industry.gov.au)>; ^{s 22} [@industry.gov.au](mailto:sandy.kunvatanagarn@industry.gov.au)>; ^{s 22} [@industry.gov.au](mailto:sandy.kunvatanagarn@industry.gov.au)>; El-Asmar, Candice ^{s 22} [@industry.gov.au](mailto:candice.el-asmar@industry.gov.au)>; Wilson, Helen ^{s 22} [@industry.gov.au](mailto:helen.wilson@industry.gov.au)>
Subject: Re: Opportunity to meet during the India AI Impact Summit [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi ^{s 22}

Unfortunately Chris has conflicts at those times. Would Wednesday from 2:30-3pm at the Summit venue be possible?

Sandy

On Sun, Feb 15, 2026 at 19:11 ^{s 22} [@industry.gov.au](mailto:sandy.kunvatanagarn@industry.gov.au)> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Thanks Sandy.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks

^{s 22}

OFFICIAL

From: Sandy Kuvatanagarn s 22 <sandy.kuvatanagarn@openai.com>
Sent: Sunday, 15 February 2026 9:18 PM
To: s 22 <s22@industry.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 <s22@openai.com>; Amelia Metcalf s 22 <amelia.metcalf@bourkestreetadvisory.com>; Ivy Lau-Schindewolf s 22 <ivy.lau@openai.com>; Foote, Jessica <jessica.foote@industry.gov.au>; s 22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; El-Asmar, Candice <Candice.El-Asmar@industry.gov.au>; Wilson, Helen <Helen.Wilson@industry.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Opportunity to meet during the India AI Impact Summit [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Legal-Privilege]

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s 22 Thanks for your patience as we check Chris' calendar. I will let you know as soon as I get confirmation.

Sandy

On Fri, Feb 13, 2026 at 7:34 AM Lovell, s 22 <s22@industry.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL: Sensitive//Legal-Privilege

Hi Sandy, James

I wanted to pick up on this to progress the opportunity to meet during the India Summit.

We currently have a couple of options in the Assistant Minister's program:

- **Wednesday 18 February:** between 11:15AM – 4:30PM – this could be over lunch or either side at the Summit venue or nearby.
- **Friday 20 February:** between 9am – to conclude by 11am – at the Australian High Commissioner or nearby.

We're keen to work with you to understand who you'll have attending and lock in a time.

Thanks

s 22

s 22

Manager

Technology & Digital Policy Division | **International AI & Technology Policy**

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

s 22 || **Email s 22** [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)

| **industry.gov.au** ABN 74 599 608 295

Our purpose is to help the government build a better future for all Australians through enabling a productive, resilient and sustainable economy, enriched by science and technology.

We are collaborative, innovative, respectful and we strive for excellence.

From: Writer, Simon <Simon.Writer@industry.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 11 February 2026 3:13 PM

Simon

Simon Writer PSM

Head of Division

Technology and Digital Policy Division

Ngunnawal Country, Industry House, [10 Binara Street](#) (GPO Box 2013) Canberra ACT 2601

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

ps | **E s 22** [@industry.gov.au](mailto:ps2@industry.gov.au)
2

s 22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)

s 22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)

industry.gov.au ABN 74 599 608 295

Supporting economic growth and job creation for all Australians | We are collaborative, innovative, respectful and strive for excellence

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Simon Writer PSM

Head of Division

Technology and Digital Policy Division

Ngunnawal Country, Industry House, [10 Binara Street](#) (GPO Box 2013) Canberra ACT 2601

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

s | s 22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)

s 22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)

s 22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)

industry.gov.au ABN 74 599 608 295

Supporting economic growth and job creation for all Australians | We are collaborative, innovative, respectful and strive for excellence

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s 22

From: Kate Pounder s 22 @c-openai.com>
Sent: Thursday, 13 November 2025 8:04 AM
To: El-Asmar, Candice
Cc: Wilson, Helen; Writer, Simon; s 22
Subject: Re: Follow up discussion [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Thank you.

That time works well.

Best,

Kate

On Wed, Nov 12, 2025 at 9:09 PM El-Asmar, Candice s 22 @industry.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi Kate

How about 3:30pm on Monday?

Thanks
Candice

OFFICIAL

From: Kate Pounder s 22 @c-openai.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 4:25:19 PM
To: El-Asmar, Candice s 22 @industry.gov.au>
Cc: Wilson, Helen s 22 @industry.gov.au>; Writer, Simon s 22 @industry.gov.au>; s 22 @industry.gov.au>; s 22 @industry.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Follow up discussion [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Candice,

Thank you for following-up regarding a meeting.

I am available any time from 2.00pm on Friday, or else I could move some meetings and meet from 12pm - 1pm.

I can meet at any time on the 17th other than between 10am - 12pm.

Kind regards,

Kate

On Wed, Nov 12, 2025 at 4:04 PM El-Asmar, Candice [s 22](#)

[@industry.gov.au](#)> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi Kate

[s 45, and s 47\(1\)\(b\)](#)

If you could offer a few times that work for you, we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

Thank you

Candice

Candice El-Asmar | **Chief of Staff**

Office of the Hon Dr Andrew Charlton MP

Cabinet Secretary

Assistant Minister for Science, Technology and the Digital Economy

Federal Member for Parramatta

[s 22](#)

[s 22](#)

[@industry.gov.au](#)

The Australian Government acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

From: Kate Pounder s 22 @c-openai.com>
Sent: Thursday, 23 October 2025 2:00 PM
To: s 22
Subject: OpenAI and product safety
Attachments: Product safety briefing.pdf

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s 22

Hope that you're well.

As an FYI, I wanted to share a brief with you on recent announcements OpenAI has made regarding strengthening product safety and control measures in its core products, such as ChatGPT, for people under 18 in case this is raised with you.

I have also shared with Minister Wells' adviser, and OpenAI has briefed Julie Inman-Grant and engages regularly with her team.

If at any point you would like a more detailed briefing from OpenAI's global product safety team I can arrange that for you.

Best,

Kate

OpenAI

Background

- OpenAI is a global leader in the research and development of advanced AI models and products, such as ChatGPT and Sora
- This brief provides an update on new product features we have announced, with a focus on product safety. We would be pleased to arrange a more detailed briefing with our product safety team.

ChatGPT

- OpenAI has announced it is introducing age assurance to identify when a user is under 18. This will see such users automatically directed to a ChatGPT experience with age-appropriate policies, including blocking graphic sexual content and, in rare cases of acute distress, potentially involving law enforcement to ensure safety.
- Where a users' age is uncertain to predict, they will be directed to a default under 18 experience.
- OpenAI has also introduced parental controls for ChatGPT. These give parents the ability to:
 - Link their account with their teen's account (minimum age of 13) through a simple email invitation.
 - Help guide how ChatGPT responds to their teen, based on teen-specific model behavior rules.
 - Manage which features to disable, including memory and chat history.
 - Receive notifications when the system detects their teen is in a moment of acute distress. If we can't reach a parent in a rare emergency, we may involve law enforcement as a next step. Expert input will guide this feature to support trust between parents and teens.
 - Set blackout hours when a teen cannot use ChatGPT—a new control we're adding.

Sora2

- OpenAI has recently released Sora2, its advanced video and audio generation model, available via the Sora app.
- The Sora app is currently in an initial, invite-only rollout phase and available only in limited jurisdictions, including the U.S. and Canada.
- We are still considering future plans for the product, including additional jurisdictions in which it may be released. We do not currently have a confirmed date for an Australian release.
- If we do make the product available in Australia, we would assess the applicability of relevant laws and regulations as part of that process.
- We have taken a holistic approach to safety for Sora.
- Before launch, we conduct extensive testing, including model evaluations and adversarial red teaming, and implement risk mitigations. After deployment, we use safety models that block prompts and outputs that violate our policies and leverage human reviewers to proactively monitor our public feeds and remove content that violates our policies. We also have teams that closely monitor real-world use and abuse patterns and iterate on our safeguards as we learn.

Contact: Kate Pounder

Phone: s 22

@c-openai.com

From: Kate Pounder s 22 @c-openai.com>
Sent: Monday, 1 December 2025 5:46 PM
To: s 22
Subject: Re: Embargoed - National AI Plan [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you. Much appreciated.

Will keep it under embargo.

K

On Mon, Dec 1, 2025 at 5:40 PM s 22

[@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi Kate,

For awareness, attached is a copy of the National AI Plan which will be released tomorrow. Please note this is **under embargo until 10am AEDT on Tuesday 2 December**.

Happy to chat if you have any questions.

Cheers,

s 22

s 22 | **Senior Adviser**

Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres

Minister for Industry and Innovation

Minister for Science

Senator for NSW

s 22

[@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)

OFFICIAL

From: Kate Pounder s 22 @c-openai.com>
Sent: Sunday, 30 November 2025 4:35 PM
To: s 22 ; El-Asmar, Candice; s 22 s 22 ; Chloe Browne; Kate Lord; Anne-Louise Brown
Subject: Intro to OpenAI media team
Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s 22 , Candice, s 22 and s 22

Thanks for your help in the last week.

I wanted to introduce you to Chloe Brown, OpenAI's Head of Comms, and the team supporting her, Kate Lord and Anne-Louise Brown.

it would be great if you could add s 22 and anyone else relevant, to this thread from your end.

Chloe is leading on the media and announcement events work for OpenAI for the next week. I wanted to intro you directly so you and your teams can work directly with them if you need to coordinate media, event plan and logistics etc.

Best,

Kate



11 June 2025

From:

Sandy Kunvatanagarn
Head of Policy, APAC
OpenAI

To:

Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Minister for Industry and Innovation
Minister for Science
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via: Invitations.Ayres@industry.gov.au

Dear Minister Ayres,

I write to request a meeting with you in Canberra on Monday 30 June 2025, to introduce Dr Aaron “Ronnie” Chatterji, OpenAI’s Chief Economist, who will be visiting Australia.

Dr Chatterji is a globally recognised economist and public policy leader. He previously served in the Biden Administration as the White House CHIPS Coordinator, overseeing implementation of the landmark \$52 billion CHIPS and Science Act.

He was also Acting Deputy Director of the White House National Economic Council and Chief Economist at the US Department of Commerce and earlier served as a senior economist on President Obama’s Council of Economic Advisers.

At OpenAI, Dr Chatterji leads global work on the economic implications of artificial intelligence, including AI’s impact on productivity, economic growth and the labour market. His focus includes the role of AI infrastructure investment and how governments can best position themselves to harness the benefits of emerging technologies.

We would welcome the opportunity to brief you on OpenAI’s work in this space and to hear your perspective on Australia’s AI policy priorities and areas for collaboration.

Dr Chatterji is available for a meeting in Canberra on Monday 30 June and we are available to meet at a time most suitable to you. Our government affairs representative in Australia, Amelia Metcalf, on [s 22](tel:22) @bourkestreetadvisory.com is the liaison for coordinating the meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and I look forward to a meaningful discussion with you.

Sincerely,

Sandy Kunvatanagarn
Head of Policy, APAC
OpenAI

s 22

From: Ayres, Tim (Senator) <Senator.Ayres@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 May 2026 12:19 PM
To: s 22
Subject: FW: Invitation: OpenAI + McKell Institute dinner with OpenAI Global Chief Economist, Dr Aaron Chatterji
Attachments: OpenAI_Dinner_Invitation.pdf

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Ayres, Tim (Senator) s 22
Sent: Wednesday, 18 June 2025 9:47 AM
To: Invitations Ayres <invitations.ayres@industry.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Invitation: OpenAI + McKell Institute dinner with OpenAI Global Chief Economist, Dr Aaron Chatterji

s 22 | **Electorate Office**
Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Minister for Industry and Innovation
Minister for Science
Senator for NSW
s 22 @aph.gov.au

The Australian Government acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

From: s 47F
Sent: Tuesday, 17 June 2025 9:59 AM
To: Ayres, Tim (Senator) s 22
Cc: Edward Cavanough s 22
Subject: Invitation: OpenAI + McKell Institute dinner with OpenAI Global Chief Economist, Dr Aaron Chatterji

Dear Senator Ayres,

On behalf of Sandy Kunvatanagarn, Head of Policy APAC at OpenAI and Edward Cavanough, CEO of the McKell Institute I write to invite you to a private dinner with Dr Aaron Chatterji, OpenAI's Global Chief Economist.

At OpenAI, Dr Chatterji leads work on how artificial intelligence will shape global economic growth, labour markets and productivity. His research spans the economic implications of AI infrastructure investment, longer-term workforce transformation, strategies for enabling governments and institutions to harness the benefits of AI, and new opportunities to use data and AI in economic forecasting and analysis.

This dinner will offer a unique opportunity to hear directly from Dr Chatterji on how governments globally are approaching AI and industry policy, the impact of AI on the workforce, and the potential contribution of AI to productivity.

Attendance is limited to a select group of senior leaders to enable candid, forward-looking discussion under Chatham House-rules.

Details

Date: Tuesday 1 July

Time: 6.30pm arrival for a 7-9pm dinner

Location: TBC, Sydney CBD

A formal invitation is attached to this email. To RSVP, please respond to this email with dietary requirements.

We hope you can join us for what promises to be a thoughtful evening.

s 47F

From: Ayres, Tim (Senator) s 22
Sent: Friday, 1 May 2026 12:20 PM
To: s 22
Subject: FW: Meeting request on behalf of OpenAI's Chief Strategy Officer, Jason Kwon

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Ayres, Tim (Senator) s 22
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2025 9:10 AM
To: Invitations Ayres <invitations.ayres@industry.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Meeting request on behalf of OpenAI's Chief Strategy Officer, Jason Kwon

Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres

Minister for Industry and Innovation

Minister for Science

Senator for NSW

P: s 22

E: s 22

The Australian Government acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

From: Amelia Metcalf s 22 <@bourkestreetadvisory.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2025 8:03 AM
To: Ayres, Tim (Senator) s 22
Subject: Meeting request on behalf of OpenAI's Chief Strategy Officer, Jason Kwon

Good morning Minister Ayres,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister for Industry and Innovation, and Minister for Science.

I am supporting OpenAI with their Australian Government engagement. OpenAI's Chief Strategy Officer, [Jason Kwon](#), will visit Sydney on Monday 2 June 2025 and Canberra on Tuesday 3 June 2025.

He would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss [OpenAI for Countries](#) - a new initiative under OpenAI's [Stargate](#) project that aims to support nations in building AI infrastructure as a foundation for long-term economic growth and digital sovereignty.

The initiative includes:

- **Partner with countries to help build in-country data centre capacity.** These secure data centres will help support the sovereignty of a country’s data, build new local industries, and make it easy to customise AI and leverage their data in a private and compliant way.
- **Providing customised ChatGPT to citizens.** This will help deliver improved healthcare and education, more efficient public services, and more. This will be AI of, by, and for the needs of each particular country, localised in their language and for their culture and respecting future global standards.
- **Together, raising and deploying a national start-up fund.** With local as well as OpenAI capital, seed healthy national AI ecosystems so the new infrastructure is creating new jobs, new companies, new revenue, and new communities for each country while also supporting existing public- and private-sector needs.
- Partnering countries also would **invest in expanding the global Stargate Project**—and thus in continued US-led AI leadership and a global, growing network effect for democratic AI.

Jason is available to meet at a time and location most suitable to you. I look forward to hearing from you and if you need any additional information, please let me know.

Thank you,



AMELIA METCALF
s 22

Let's connect:

[Book an online meeting](#) | [Schedule a coffee meeting](#)

From: s 22
Sent: Monday, 30 June 2025 7:20 AM
To: s 22 ; s 22 s 22
Subject: Fw: Meeting Request: Dr Aaron “Ronnie” Chatterji, OpenAI Chief Economist – 30 June 2025 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: image001.png

OFFICIAL

FYI - not sure who's taking this one with Tim

OFFICIAL

From: Amelia Metcalf s 22 @bourkestreetadvisory.com>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 6:43 am
To: s 22 @industry.gov.au>; Invitations Ayres
<Invitations.Ayres@industry.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Meeting Request: Dr Aaron “Ronnie” Chatterji, OpenAI Chief Economist – 30 June 2025 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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Hi s 22 apologies for the delay in getting these to you.

The attendees for the 8am today are:

Dr Aaron “Ronnie” Chatterji, who is OpenAI’s Chief Economist.

Dr Chatterji is a globally recognised economist and public policy leader. He previously served in the Biden Administration as the White House CHIPS Coordinator, where he oversaw the implementation of the landmark \$52 billion CHIPS and Science Act. He was also Acting Deputy Director of the White House National Economic Council and Chief Economist at the US Department of Commerce. Earlier in his career, he served as a senior economist on President Obama’s Council of Economic Advisers and has contributed to multiple state-level economic policy commissions.

At OpenAI, Dr Chatterji leads work on how artificial intelligence will shape global economic growth, labour markets and productivity. His research spans the economic implications of AI infrastructure investment, longer-term workforce transformation, and strategies for enabling governments and institutions to harness the benefits of AI. Dr Chatterji will talk to how governments globally are approaching AI, how industry policy is evolving, and how AI can be adopted within the public sector to improve service delivery and national productivity.

Sandy Kunvatanagarn, Head of Policy, APAC, OpenAI

Sandy Kunvatanagarn is Head of Policy, Asia-Pacific for OpenAI and is based in Singapore. She leads OpenAI's government engagement and policy strategy across the region, with a focus on responsible AI deployment and cross-sector collaboration. She was previously at Meta, where she led global strategy for Reality Labs Policy and helped establish the Oversight Board. She also served as Chair of the Policy Committee at the XR Association. Earlier in her career, Kunvatanagarn was a US diplomat with postings in Indonesia, Thailand, Colombia, and the UN, and worked as an attorney at Reed Smith LLP and with the International Rescue Committee. She holds a B.A. in Computer Science from Tufts University and a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

Kate Pounder, Policy at OpenAI

Kate Pounder is a technology policy expert. She served as the founding CEO of the Tech Council of Australia (TCA) from its inception in mid-2021 until February 2024. During her tenure, she established the TCA as a leading industry body, advocating for the tech sector's growth and influence in national policy discussions. Under her leadership, the TCA set ambitious goals, including creating 1.2 million tech-related jobs by 2030 and increasing the tech sector's contribution to the Australian economy to \$250 billion by the same year. Before leading the TCA, Pounder was a partner at the analytics firm AlphaBeta, which was later acquired by Accenture. Her earlier career includes 15 years in technology and communications policy positions within the federal government, Network Ten, and the Australian Industry Group.

Gawesha Weeratunga, Economic research at OpenAI

Gawesha Weeratunga is an economic researcher at OpenAI, based in San Francisco. He co-authored the paper "*Evaluations at Work: Measuring the Capabilities of GenAI in Use*," which proposes a framework for evaluating large language models in applied settings, focusing on collaborative and task-based performance.

OFFICIAL

From: s 22 @industry.gov.au>
Date: Wednesday, 25 June 2025 at 4:27 pm
To: Amelia Metcalf s 22 @bourkestreetadvisory.com>, Invitations Ayres <Invitations.Ayres@industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Meeting Request: Dr Aaron "Ronnie" Chatterji, OpenAI Chief Economist – 30 June 2025 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Yes of course, thanks Amelia.

I'll share the invite with yourself for now

s 22 / Program Advisor
Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Minister for Industry and Innovation
Minister for Science
Senator for NSW

s 22
s 22

@industry.gov.au

OFFICIAL

From: Amelia Metcalf s 22 @bourkestreetadvisory.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 June 2025 4:22 PM
To: s 22 @industry.gov.au>; Invitations Ayres <Invitations.Ayres@industry.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Meeting Request: Dr Aaron “Ronnie” Chatterji, OpenAI Chief Economist – 30 June 2025 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s 22 that’s wonderful news. Can we please book in 8am and I’ll send you the names shortly.

Amelia Metcalf
Managing Director
Bourke Street Advisory

s 22

Sent from my iPhone

OFFICIAL

From: s 22 @industry.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 4:08 pm
To: Amelia Metcalf s 22 @bourkestreetadvisory.com>; Invitations Ayres <Invitations.Ayres@industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Meeting Request: Dr Aaron “Ronnie” Chatterji, OpenAI Chief Economist – 30 June 2025 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Amelia,

Thank you for your correspondence to Minister Ayres.

The Minister is happy to meet with Dr Aaron “Ronnie” Chatterji in Canberra on Monday 30 June.

Please let me know which of the below times work for this meeting to be held in Minister Ayres Ministerial Suite at Parliament House. Could you please advise if anyone else will be accompanying Dr Aaron “Ronnie” Chatterji?

1. Monday 30th June at 8am

2. Monday 30th June at 8:30am

Kind regards,

s 22 | Program Advisor
Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Minister for Industry and Innovation
Minister for Science
Senator for NSW
s 22
s 22 | @industry.gov.au

OFFICIAL

From: Amelia Metcalf s 22 | @bourkestreetadvisory.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 11 June 2025 11:25 AM
To: Invitations Ayres <Invitations.Ayres@industry.gov.au>
Subject: Meeting Request: Dr Aaron “Ronnie” Chatterji, OpenAI Chief Economist – 30 June 2025

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Minister Ayres,

I’m writing on behalf of OpenAI to share the attached letter from Sandy Kuvatanagarn, Head of Policy for APAC for OpenAI, requesting a meeting with you in Canberra on Monday 30 June 2025.

Dr Aaron “Ronnie” Chatterji, who is OpenAI’s Chief Economist and a former senior White House economic official, will be in Canberra that day and is seeking to meet with you to discuss the economic implications of AI, including infrastructure, productivity, and public policy.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

 | AMELIA METCALF
s 22

Let’s connect:

[Book an online meeting](#) | [Schedule a coffee meeting](#)



Australian Government
**Department of Industry,
Science and Resources**

Meeting Brief

MB25-000301

**FOR INFORMATION - Meeting with OpenAI [Sandy Kunvatanagarn, Head of Policy APAC and Dr Aaron 'Ronnie' Chatterji, Chief Economist]
8:00am – 8:30am, Monday 30 June 2025**

TO: Minister for Industry and Innovation; Minister for Science

CC: Assistant Minister for Science, Technology and the Digital Economy

PURPOSE OF MEETING

- OpenAI's Head of Policy APAC (Ms Kunvatanagarn) and Chief Economist (Dr Chatterji) have requested a meeting with you to brief you on their work on the economic implications of AI and to hear your perspective on Australia's AI policy priorities and potential areas for collaboration.
 - They are likely to raise OpenAI's Economic Blueprint for AI in Australia (the blueprint), which they plan to launch at the Mandala AI Policy Forum on Tuesday 1 July 2025. Assistant Minister Charlton is delivering the keynote address (**MB25-000291** refers).
 - An advance copy of the blueprint is at [Attachment A](#) (under media embargo until 1 July 2025). A summary is at [Attachment B](#).
 - Discussion points for your meeting with OpenAI are at [Attachment C](#).
- OpenAI may also raise their OpenAI for Countries initiative as a potential mechanism to partner more closely with Australia.
 - They are seeking to partner with 10 governments to build data centre capacity, provide customised ChatGPT and raise and deploy national start-up funds to support national AI ecosystems (see [Attachment D](#)).

KEY MESSAGES

- OpenAI's blueprint recognises AI is an enormous opportunity central to Australia's future economic growth, security and productivity.
 - The blueprint includes a range of proposals aimed at encouraging AI adoption in Australia.
 - The commentary in the blueprint around productivity comes at a good time, with the recent announcement of the Productivity Roundtable.

- OpenAI is working closely with Governments around the world. On 16 June, OpenAI launched their 'OpenAI for Government'. This initiative focuses on bringing OpenAI tools to public servants across the United States.
 - Coinciding with this launch, the US Department of Defense awarded OpenAI a \$200 million contract to develop prototype frontier AI capabilities.
 - There is limited public reporting on the nature of the models, but reporting suggest that the models will be developed for both civilian and military applications.
- There may be some synergies between OpenAI for Government and the Australian *Government's AI Action Plan for Government* (**MB24-000265** refers).

BACKGROUND

OpenAI's Economic Blueprint

- The department met with OpenAI and Mandala on 13 May 2025, where the proposal to develop an economic blueprint for Australia was raised. This is OpenAI's third economic blueprint – following the EU and the US.
- OpenAI's blueprint for Australia identifies four key opportunity areas and a 10-point AI Action Plan where AI can deliver lasting benefits to the Australian economy and society.
 - using AI to kickstart **productivity** across the economy
 - transforming the **education** sector through responsible AI integration
 - using AI to boost the effectiveness of **government service** delivery
 - investing in **AI infrastructure** for domestic strength and regional leadership.
- **s 47C**
 - The commentary in the blueprint around productivity comes at a good time, with the recent announcement of the Productivity Roundtable.
 - OpenAI's views on government service delivery may be a good mechanism to gauge public reaction noting Government's un-announced *AI Action Plan for Government* (**MB25-000265** refers).

OpenAI for Countries

- The first country OpenAI have partnered with under the 'OpenAI for Countries' initiative is the United Arab Emirates. All residents of the UAE will receive access to ChatGPT Plus, a premium version of OpenAI's service. The announcement came after the UAE committed to investing US\$1.4 trillion in the US in support of job creation, economic growth, and helping the US maintain its technological leadership.

- s 47C

- The department supports further consideration of Australia’s participation in the initiative s 47C

Australian Government’s AI Action Plan for Government

- Minister Gallagher is considering how to boost the adoption of AI across government. The Minister’s approach will be outlined in an *AI Action Plan for Government* (the plan). It will focus on accelerating AI adoption of low-risk AI use cases across the APS and set the conditions for scaling adoption in the long-term. Other areas considered include knowledge sharing, coordinating AI procurement, and learning & development. Longer term ambitions include investment in sovereign AI capability and legislative reform to support data sharing.

SENSITIVITIES

s47(1)(b)

Clearance Officer

Dan Quinn
General Manager, AI Policy
Technology and Digital
s 22
27 June 2025

Contact Officer

s 22
Director, AI Infrastructure
s 22

CONSULTATION

Technology and Digital Division

ATTACHMENTS

- A: AI in Australia – OpenAI’s Economic Blueprint
- B: Summary of OpenAI’s Economic Blueprint for Australia
- C: Discussion Points
- D: OpenAI for Countries media release
- E: Biographies

Attachment C: Discussion points

- Congratulations on the upcoming release of the Economic Blueprint.
- I believe digital technology and artificial intelligence sit at the heart of Australia's national challenges and national opportunities.
- The government is focused on capturing the opportunity of AI, and we welcome your perspective through the blueprint on where we can focus our efforts.

Economic Blueprint

- I understand that this is the third economic blueprint OpenAI have released after the EU and US blueprint. Why was your focus on Australia after the release of these two other plans?
- I am interested in how you identified the four opportunity areas in the economic blueprint?
- Were there other areas that you considered, but decided not to pursue?
- We are working on our own plan. The National AI Capability Plan will set out how we can grow investment, strengthen AI capabilities, boost AI skills, and secure economic resilience.
- Three initial areas are being considered: enabling infrastructure (including data centres), growing Australia's local AI industry and lifting adoption.
- These appear to be aligned with the opportunity areas identified in your economic blueprint, but I am keen to hear your views on what the plan could look at.

OpenAI for Government

- I understand the US Department of Defense awarded OpenAI a \$200 million contract to develop prototype frontier AI capabilities.
- I'd be interested in understanding more about the OpenAI for Government initiative. Is it a US focussed program, or will there be an opportunity for the initiative to be opened to other countries?
- You could seek OpenAI's views on the AI Action Plan for Government.

Future collaboration opportunities

- I'd be interested in understanding the OpenAI for Countries initiative, and how OpenAI is thinking about Australia.
 - I understand there has been previous conversations between my department and you, and that the department is developing a proposal for further discussion.
 - Topics that are being considered include agriculture, public safety and disaster management; education and healthcare.
 - You may have heard that the Prime Minister recently announced a productivity roundtable to be held later this year. I'm interested in what you think we could discuss with industry during that roundtable.
 - I'd like to invite OpenAI to participate in a side dialogue to the productivity roundtable. This dialogue could potentially further develop the ideas contained in the department's proposal, or be a broader discussion on partnership opportunities.

Data centres

- What are the key factors for OpenAI in deciding to invest in building AI infrastructure in Australia? Does this include investment in the Stargate Project?
- How can industry and government can work together to address concerns about the impact of data centre development on energy and water usage, particularly in drought-prone areas?



AI in Australia

OpenAI's Economic Blueprint

July 2025

Foreword

At OpenAI, we are building AI that helps people and governments solve hard problems – like accelerating scientific discovery; improving healthcare, education, and government services; and boosting productivity. We believe that together with Australian businesses, policymakers, developers, startups, and educators, we can harness the power of AI to make Australians' lives better and more prosperous.

AI is a transformative general purpose technology – like electricity, it will change how we live, work, and interact with one another. Equally remarkable, however, is what our AI tools are already accomplishing across the world:

- Doctors and nurses are using our tools to help them gather and organise patient information and treatments
- Scientists are using OpenAI's tools on high-energy physics, fundamental mathematics, disease prevention, cybersecurity and energy
- Students and educators are using ChatGPT Edu to develop customised curriculum and one-on-one tutoring tools, as well as to streamline administrative work
- Farmers are using our AI tools to make more efficient use of their land, and homeowners are using them to help better renovate their homes
- Workers in national and local governments are using ChatGPT to research projects, translate foreign languages, edit copy, and make outdated policy language more accessible

Founded more than 10 years ago as a startup research lab, OpenAI has created freely available tools currently being used by more than 500 million people around the world, with user growth doubling in Australia over the past year.

For us, this is just the beginning. We are building AI to solve difficult problems because, by tackling the toughest challenges, AI can have the greatest impact on the most people.

This Blueprint – a living document that will continue to evolve – is our proposal for how Australia can realise the promise of AI. We believe Australia needs to act more boldly and decisively to maximise AI's possibilities while also ensuring it's used responsibly to mitigate potential negative effects.

We are at an inflection point. The opportunity AI presents to spur productivity and increase prosperity is too compelling to forfeit. National investment in AI infrastructure today will form the backbone of future economic growth, create jobs, boost productivity and usher in a new generation of entrepreneurship. It's true for Australia. And it's true for the rest of the world.

We want to partner with Australia on this journey and look forward to building on this collaboration.

Sandy Kuvatanagarn
Head of Policy, APAC
OpenAI



Introduction

The Prime Minister has set a national ambition: “to move quickly to build an economy that is more dynamic, more productive and more resilient”.¹

AI is a powerful tool that can be used to deliver on that ambition.

After a long period of growth, the rate of improvement in Australian living standards has slowed over the past decade. AI presents a rare opportunity to reignite that trajectory, especially by driving a step-change in economy-wide productivity.

Higher productivity means higher wages, lower inflation, lower cost of living and rising living standards. Over the past 40 years, Australia’s real GDP per person has risen by A\$46,000 – improvements in productivity, largely through innovation, have contributed 80% of this, with increases in the working-age population contributing 13% and increases in labour force participation contributing 7%.²

With an aging population, productivity increases will become even more crucial to future economic growth and prosperity, and AI offers an unprecedented opportunity to drive that productivity.

Australia, however, will not achieve this growth by itself. The opportunities created by AI will flow disproportionately to countries that act. Too often, commentary on AI focuses on distant speculation, casting nations as passive recipients of inevitable change. In reality, the economic winners of the AI era will be those who make deliberate choices today.

While Australian consumers have been quick adopters of AI technology, our policy settings have tended toward a cautious ‘wait and see’ approach to AI, shaped in part by understandable concerns arising from earlier waves of digital technology. These concerns – around privacy, misinformation, and societal impact – are reflected in recent survey data³ showing relatively low public trust and optimism about AI. While these concerns are valid, AI represents something fundamentally different: a tool to amplify human potential, drive discovery, and support more meaningful work. With other countries moving decisively, Australia must now shift gears – from watching, to shaping – or risk falling behind in competitiveness, innovation, and quality of life.

Australia has shown that when it moves with purpose – on digital payments, rooftop solar, or cloud adoption – it can lead the world. Australians are fast to adopt new technology relative to other Western nations.⁴ AI should be no different.

But this is not just another wave of automation. AI offers us a chance to rethink how work is done entirely. It offers everyone a chance to spend more time on the things that make us human. A nurse unburdened by paperwork can spend more time with patients. A teacher released from admin can focus more on students. A business owner with more bandwidth can pursue bold ideas.

This is the real promise of AI: not just faster processes, but a higher value economy and a more prosperous society.

And Australia’s role can extend beyond its borders. With the right choices, we can become the Indo-Pacific’s trusted partner for AI infrastructure, standards, and responsible deployment, offering democratic leadership in a time of rising global uncertainty.

This Blueprint is OpenAI’s proposition: a practical plan to help Australia seize this opportunity. It outlines how strategic action on productivity, education, government services and infrastructure can reignite Australia’s growth trajectory and secure our place as a leader in the AI era. It also offers a suite of targeted policy suggestions, including embedding AI skills in schools and workplaces, modernising public service delivery, incentivising business adoption, and investing in sovereign infrastructure, to help Australia move decisively and shape the AI future on its own terms.

¹ Anthony Albanese (2025) Address to the National Press Club, Australian Labor Party, June 10, 2025

² Australian Treasury (2023) 2023 Intergenerational Report: Australia’s Future to 2063

³ KPMG & University of Queensland (2024) Trust, attitudes and use of AI: Global report

⁴ YouGov (2020) First in Line: Early Technology Adopters Around the Globe



How to read this Blueprint:

This Blueprint outlines opportunity areas where AI can deliver lasting benefits to the Australian economy and society, and highlights the ways OpenAI can help.

We offer this work in the spirit of collaboration, joining a dialogue already underway across federal and state governments, industry, the tech sector, academia, unions, think tanks, small businesses, workers, advocates, and consumers.

Each section:

- Summarises the economic challenge or opportunity
- Showcases the role of AI in driving Australia's next wave of growth
- Proposes targeted policies to help Australia move forward
- Outlines how Australia can build national resilience and shape AI leadership in the region

The opportunity areas are:

- Using AI to kickstart productivity across the economy
- Transforming the education sector through responsible AI integration
- Using AI to boost the effectiveness of government service delivery
- Investing in AI infrastructure for domestic strength and regional leadership

Australia's 10-Point AI Action Plan

To secure its AI future, Australia should:

1. Roll out national AI skills training for workers, students, and managers
2. Offer targeted tax incentives for all businesses adopting AI
3. Embed AI literacy and responsible use in schools and universities
4. Modernise government services delivery through responsible AI
5. Provide secure access to government data for public-interest AI use
6. Upskill public service and empower a central AI capability unit
7. Reform AI procurement rules to support innovation and pilots
8. Invest in AI-ready infrastructure like data centres and compute
9. Ensure access to affordable, renewable energy for AI infrastructure
10. Establish Australia as a trusted regional hub for AI standards and investment in the Indo-Pacific



Productivity

Australia’s economic success depends on reversing a long-term productivity slowdown

Australia’s economy is at a turning point. After years of sluggish productivity, output per hour worked now sits 18% below the United States – a gap driven by underinvestment and slower adoption of digital technologies like AI.⁵

Reversing this trend is critical to Australia’s growth trajectory. As the Productivity Commission notes, productivity growth has accounted for 80% of Australia’s income growth over the past three decades.⁶ Yet in sectors central to economic strength, such as construction, manufacturing, and retail, stagnation is dragging on housing delivery, industrial competitiveness, and the energy transition.

There is a path forward. Australia’s IT sector offers a blueprint for what’s possible, with early digital adoption driving measurable gains in efficiency.⁷

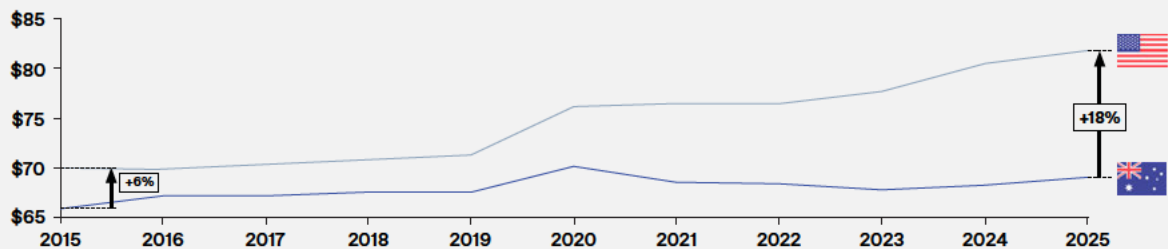
With targeted AI investment and broad diffusion across all sectors of the economy, the rest of the economy can follow suit – unlocking new growth, higher wages, and improved living standards.

The goal is to empower Australians with better tools, smarter systems, and stronger digital foundations. AI offers a way to lift productivity not just by improving efficiency, but by rethinking how work happens. It can create entirely new roles, support more creative and human-centred ways of working, and help shift focus from routine tasks to problem-solving, innovation, and meaningful engagement.

As other nations move quickly to harness these benefits, Australia must keep pace. Strategic adoption of AI can help modernise industries, lower costs for small businesses, and position the economy as high-value and innovation-led – key ingredients for sustaining wages, lifting national competitiveness, and attracting long-term investment.

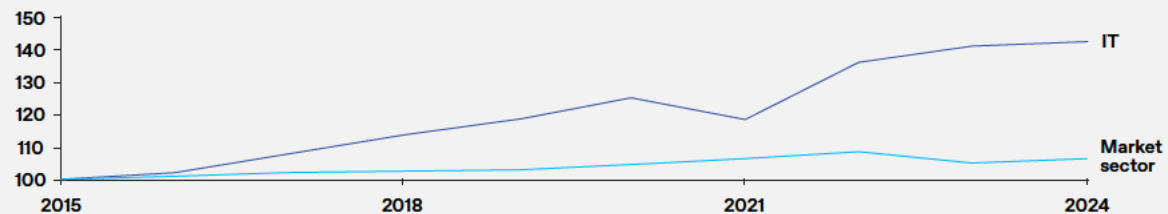
Australian labour productivity lags behind the United States

Output per hour worked, GDP constant, 2021 international \$, 2015-2025



IT has been the largest source of Australian productivity growth

Index of labour productivity by industry (2015 = 100), FY 2015 – FY 2024



Source: ILO (2024) Labour Productivity; Australian Bureau of Statistics (2025) Estimates of Industry Multifactor Productivity; Mandala analysis.

5 International Labour Organisation (2024) Labour Productivity
 6 Productivity Commission (2022) Advancing Prosperity
 7 Australian Bureau of Statistics (2025) Estimates of Industry Multifactor Productivity

CASE IN POINT

Rethinking Work at Moderna

Moderna partnered with OpenAI to embed generative AI tools across its entire business - from legal and HR to manufacturing and R&D - reimagining not just what tasks are done, but how work happens. Every employee was equipped to use AI as an assistant, and custom GPTs were developed to transform core workflows. In clinical operations, “Dose ID” assists teams by analysing large datasets, generating visualisations, and providing rationale for dose selection in vaccine trials. In legal, “Contract Companion” helps accelerate contract review and identify key risks. These tools are embedded in daily decision-making, showing how AI can reshape operating models, not just improve productivity.

In the past, Australia has built globally competitive industries in agriculture, mining and banking by embracing general use technologies. To succeed in the future, we’ll need to do it again.

AI adoption could unlock A\$115 billion in annual economic gains for Australia by 2030

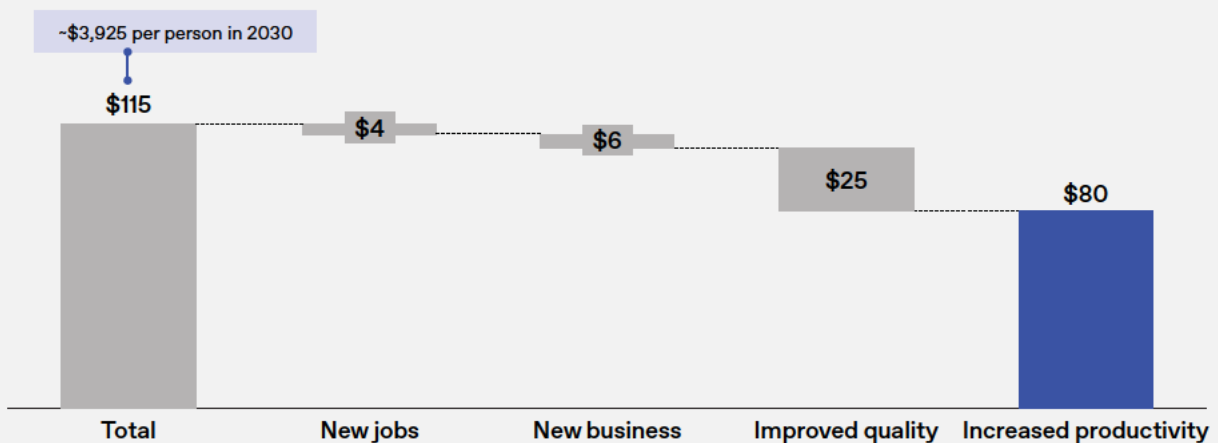
AI is forecast to contribute A\$115 billion a year to the Australian economy by 2030, around A\$3,925 per person.⁸ Most of this gain (A\$80 billion) will come from productivity improvements, alongside benefits from improved output

quality (A\$25 billion), new businesses (A\$6 billion), and new jobs (A\$4 billion).

ChatGPT usage already signals this shift: globally, more than 500 million people use ChatGPT every week. In Australia, weekly ChatGPT usage has more than doubled in the last year alone. Over 90% of users say they benefit from ChatGPT for learning, skill-building, and self-improvement. OpenAI’s tools are widely used by professionals and small businesses to streamline tasks, from emails and invoicing to marketing and drafting, freeing up time for higher-value work. This widespread integration offers a strong base for productivity transformation.

Forecast contribution of AI to the Australian economy in 2030

\$ billion, 2030 gross value added, 2023 values



Source: Microsoft and Tech Council of Australia (2023) Australia’s Generative AI Opportunity; Mandala analysis.

8 Microsoft and Tech Council of Australia (2023) Australia’s Generative AI Opportunity

CASE IN POINT

Scaling Creativity with Canva

Canva partnered with OpenAI to bring advanced AI features to over 175 million global users, transforming how people design, communicate, and create. Through Magic Studio, a suite of AI-powered tools built with OpenAI's models, users can instantly generate content, translate copy, edit images, and turn rough ideas into polished outputs. These tools are deeply embedded in Canva's workflows, making AI feel less like a separate tool and more like a natural extension of the creative process. By reducing friction and boosting speed, Canva is helping users – from students to marketers to major enterprises – focus more on creativity and less on complexity.

To capture the full economic and productivity benefits of AI, targeted policy action is needed. The following proposals aims to accelerate AI adoption and build capability in Australian workplaces:

Challenge	Policy suggestions
AI skills not yet widespread across the existing workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out accessible, high quality AI skills training to support workforce transition and national digital capability - underpinned by skills-based standards and faster, more iterative development of those standards • Expand access to AI-driven learning through micro-credentials and other innovative models
Low 'AI readiness' of new workforce entrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and scale sector-based capability frameworks and knowledge-sharing platforms • Integrate AI education into schools and universities by embedding content in Units of Competency and aligning expectations through education funding agreements • Upskill managers using targeted enterprise training programs
Slow enterprise adoption of AI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide targeted investment incentives (e.g. AI tax boosts or grants) to accelerate AI access within businesses • Update tax deduction settings to support medium and large enterprises adopting or building AI solutions • Leverage the R&D investment review to drive greater business and government R&D in AI • Use the single front door investment attraction model (as committed under the 'Future Made in Australia' policy framework) to attract and facilitate international investment in AI • Expand access to AI tools in environments that encourage safe experimentation, especially for SMEs
Need for clearer, common-sense rules to guide responsible AI use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen and expand the National AI Centre's mandate, drawing on models like the U.S. National AI Research Institutes, and enable it to lead the development of sector-level AI adoption plans • Commission tailored AI adoption blueprints with sector stakeholders (e.g. healthcare, professional services), identifying best-in-class use cases, implementation roadmaps, and workforce transition pathways

Education

Education is core to economic competitiveness, but Australia’s learning outcomes are declining

Australian students’ academic performance has steadily declined over the past two decades, with PISA scores in reading, mathematics, and science all trending downward. Australia’s global rankings have fallen across each subject area.

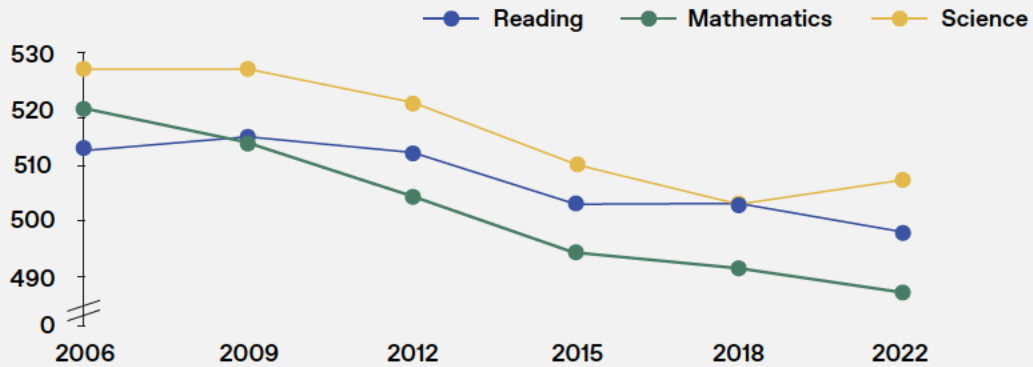
NAPLAN results paint a similar story, and highlight the gap between rural and metropolitan students, where rural Year 9 students continue to perform 10–13%⁹ worse than their metropolitan peers across reading, writing and numeracy.

AI offers a powerful way to help reverse this decline. OpenAI’s tools are used by students, teachers, and parents for tutoring, lesson support, and skill development. These models can help bridge educational gaps by providing personalised learning, remote tutoring, and access to high-quality resources regardless of location.

Encouragingly, some Australian education leaders are already demonstrating what early adoption can look like. South Australia is one of the first jurisdictions to support safe experimentation with generative AI in schools, enabling teachers to integrate AI tools into classrooms and even build their own chatbot-style tools using OpenAI via Azure. At the university level, institutions like UNSW are also partnering with OpenAI, helping them to maintain the highest graduate salaries among Go8 universities.

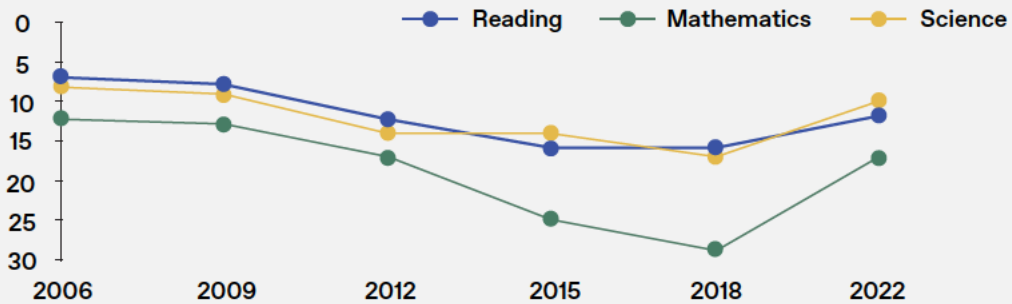
Average PISA scores have steadily fallen since 2006

PISA score points, mean performance, 2006-2022



Australia’s global ranking has worsened across all three domains

Country rankings, 2006-2022



Source: OECD (2023) PISA 2022 Results (Volume I and II) – Country Notes: Australia; Mandala analysis.



At the same time, teachers face rising demands. School staffing has grown by 50% since 2006, reaching nearly 600,000 in 2024¹⁰, but more than a quarter of a typical teacher’s time is still consumed by administrative work, and 92% report lacking time for lesson preparation.¹¹ AI can help reduce this burden by automating tasks like attendance, scheduling, reporting, and resource creation. This allows teachers to focus on teaching, planning, and student engagement.

AI can also support students directly by enhancing access to personalised learning tools, improving research skills, and providing real-time tutoring support. From summarising complex topics to generating practice questions, AI can help students learn more independently and effectively, especially in underserved or remote communities.

The following policy proposals can help close Australia’s growing learning gaps:

Challenge	Policy suggestions
AI not embedded in school curricula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a national AI upskilling program for educators, including accredited, ongoing professional development and support • Provide schools with practical, expert guidance on AI deployment, including free teaching resources, lesson plans, and accredited learning guides • Integrate AI literacy and ethics into Australian Curriculum v10 • Provide guidance to teachers on how to advance pedagogy & build AI into curriculum
Limited formal avenues for young people to experiment, innovate, and build AI tools and applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an AI Awareness Day (annual rotating themes) • Expand Safer Internet Day to include AI • Create a 'Youth Digital Agency' to co-design AI applications with young people • Launch a Responsible AI Innovation Prize

¹⁰ ABS (2024) Schools, accessed 09 May 2025

¹¹ Grattan Institute (2022) Making time for great teaching



Government Services

Using AI to boost the efficiency and effectiveness of government service delivery

The non-market sector has suffered from stagnant productivity since the early 2000s, contributing to rising costs.¹² In 2024, Australians spent an average of 1.6 hours on hold with government agencies - amounting to 9.8 million hours lost.¹³ The Government’s 2024-25 Budget investment in Services Australia was the largest single increase in dollar terms and extra staff in its history. It has helped to reduce the time it takes to answer Centrelink and Medicare calls, and sped up processing for Paid Parental Leave, Jobseeker and Childcare Subsidy payments. But there is still ample room to improve through accelerating AI deployment, particularly in areas like data analytics, workflow automation, and service triage.¹⁴

Other governments are already demonstrating the value of AI in public service delivery. In the United States, Pennsylvania partnered with OpenAI to pilot ChatGPT use across administrative workflows, saving public servants over an hour per day on routine tasks like document summarisation and drafting.¹⁵

These results show the immediate utility of OpenAI’s tools in high-trust government settings. Singapore has adopted a more comprehensive approach - using a startup-style model (led by a government agency) to crowdsource ideas, prototype solutions, and scale AI tools across the public sector. OpenAI’s ongoing commitment to releasing open-weight models, which can be deployed on-premises within a public sector agency’s own security perimeter, further enhances their suitability for sensitive or regulated environments, where visibility, auditability, and control are paramount.

Australia can build on these examples by piloting interoperable AI tools that improve service navigation, expand multilingual support, and simplify public-facing communications – making outdated policy language more accessible and reducing friction in service delivery. Whether through top-down coordination or agile experimentation, the key is creating the right structures to identify, trial, and scale what works. If AI tools for government services are designed with regional alignment in mind, Australia could lead efforts to build a trusted and interoperable digital ecosystem across the Indo-Pacific.

Customer service	Healthcare	Policy development
<p>Personalised efficient and accessible support</p> <p>This will reduce operational costs and allow staff to focus on complex cases requiring human expertise.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlining service navigation by developing interactive guides Deploying 24/7 AI assistance across MyGov platforms 	<p>Automate administrative tasks and support clinical decision-making</p> <p>This will reduce administrative burden and improve resource allocation.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing clinical note writing automation systems Piloting AI tools to support medical imaging and radiology analysis 	<p>Improve analysis of information and stakeholder engagement</p> <p>This will improve productivity in government by automating labour-intensive research.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record and analyse public consultations to identify key themes and concerns Support drafting process for internal documents
<p>15% increase in worker productivity for customer-support agents who have access to AI</p>	<p>25% of nursing tasks can be automated, freeing up time for nurses to spend with patients</p>	<p>40% average reduction in time taken on writing tasks with an 18% increase in quality</p>

12 Australian Financial Review (2024) Government-funded jobs are booming but we’re not getting bang for buck
 13 ServiceNow (2024) Creating a Seamless Citizen Experience Across APAC
 14 Brynjolfsson et al. (2023) Generative AI at Work; Microsoft and Tech Council of Australia (2023) Australia’s Generative AI Opportunity; Noy and Zhang (2023) Experimental evidence on the productivity effects
 15 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (2025) Lessons from Pennsylvania’s generative AI pilot with ChatGPT

CASE IN POINT

Bridging Language Gaps in Minnesota

The State of Minnesota’s Enterprise Translation Office is using ChatGPT Enterprise to improve multilingual service delivery across government. By integrating generative AI into its translation workflows, the office can now rapidly draft and refine content in multiple languages - significantly reducing turnaround times and expanding access to vital information for non-English-speaking communities. This shift enables faster, more inclusive communication across public agencies, while maintaining human oversight to ensure cultural and contextual accuracy. The approach highlights how AI can help governments better serve diverse populations and deliver more equitable public services.

To accelerate AI-driven improvements across Australia’s public services, we recommend the following policies:

Challenge	Policy suggestions
Government data underutilised for AI innovation and public policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digitise and release public datasets in accessible formats, prioritising data assets in areas of strategic importance (e.g. housing, energy, education and social services) Implement the Data Governance Framework as part of the Data Availability and Transparency Act to establish common rules and accelerate data access across the APS Review data classification and access rules to enable more public sector AI applications
AI capability within government is limited and not coordinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in whole-of-government AI training (APS uplift) Empower a public sector AI agency or unit to lead AI deployment and remove bureaucratic obstacles to high-impact use cases Introduce incentives and awards for the most effective public sector uses of AI Provide government employees with broad access to AI tools and encourage experimentation in a sandboxed environment
Government procurement processes are outdated and slow AI adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce modern AI procurement rules, including specialised pathways for innovative and pilot projects. These rules could be modelled on the NSW Government’s Test and Buy Innovation Guidelines Create pre-vetted vendor panels to reduce adoption friction

AI Infrastructure

Australia has the potential to become the Indo-Pacific’s trusted hub for AI infrastructure

OpenAI’s Stargate, a multibillion-dollar data centre project in the US, is already generating thousands of jobs and expanding critical AI infrastructure. It offers a blueprint for how strategic compute investments can drive economic growth, workforce development, and technological leadership. Australia now has an opportunity to benefit in the same way.

Economic research¹⁶ indicates that technologies usually take decades to diffuse across the world. ChatGPT, however, hit 100 million users in two months, ushering in a new paradigm for the pace of technological progress and the need for meaningfully more compute infrastructure than Australians currently have access to.

Australia leads on the core building blocks of data centre competitiveness: it has the highest land availability among peer nations, strong policy stability, efficient permitting processes, and abundant access to renewable energy. These advantages, more than just low average electricity costs, reinforce its appeal for major infrastructure investment.

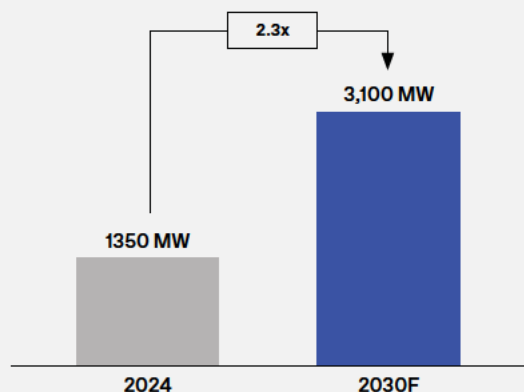
AI models are growing larger and more widely used, driving exponential demand for compute. Without expanded data centre capacity, Australia risks bottlenecks that limit innovation, delay adoption, and push development offshore.

Data centre capacity will more than double by the end of the decade, create over 8,000 jobs, and affect nearly every sector of the economy

Rising demand for AI and digital services is expected to more than double Australia’s data centre capacity, from 1,350 megawatts (MW) today to 3,100 MW by 2030, attracting up to A\$26 billion in additional investment.¹⁷ Major projects from AirTrunk, AWS, CDC, Microsoft, and NEXTDC are already planned. This expansion will drive job growth across the tech sector, with data centre operations forecast to support 17,900 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs by 2030, up from 9,600 today.¹⁷ Most of these new roles will be in ongoing operations – tech trades, engineers, and ICT professionals. These figures reflect direct impacts only, and don’t capture the wider economic flow-on effects this growth will bring.

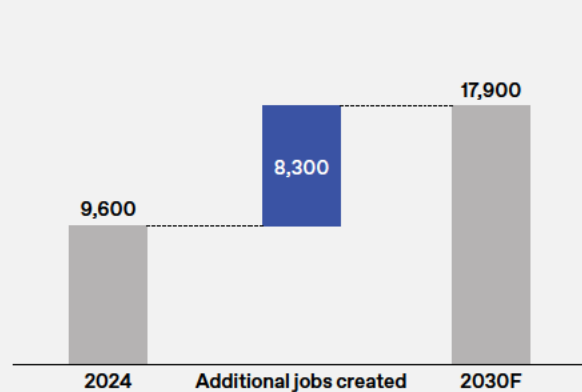
Data centre deployable capacity in Australia

Megawatt (MW), 2024-2030F



Australia’s AI infrastructure could create 8,300 extra jobs

Data centre jobs in Australia, FTE jobs, 2024-2030F



Source: Mandala Partners (2024) Empowering Australia’s Digital Future; Mandala analysis.

¹⁶ Comin, Diego and Bart Hobijn (2010) “An Exploration of Technology Diffusion.” American Economic Review, 100 (5): 2031–59
¹⁷ Mandala Partners (2024) Empowering Australia’s Digital Future





Australia’s AI infrastructure investments can catalyse long-term economic transformation

Australia has the opportunity to position itself as a leading hub for AI infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific, not just by deploying data centres, but by anchoring a broader ecosystem of innovation. These infrastructure investments are more than just physical assets: they create a foundation that attracts skills, capital, and high-value industries. In the same way that past investments in broadband, cloud, and clean energy paid long-term dividends, AI infrastructure today will shape Australia’s economic resilience and competitiveness tomorrow.

Investing in domestic AI infrastructure doesn’t just meet national needs, it creates an exportable capability. Without it, Australia risks becoming a net importer of compute capacity as demand grows. Building locally allows Australia to treat AI infrastructure as a strategic asset rather than a dependency.

Australia’s land availability, stability, and growing access to high-performance computing infrastructure make it a strong contender for training capacity beyond US and European hubs. Simultaneously, it can lead on inference for ASEAN markets by providing a trusted, low-latency corridor for AI services.

Consideration	Training an AI model	AI Inference
Primary function	Training is the process of teaching an AI model to recognise patterns and make decisions by exposing it to massive, globally sourced datasets until it can accurately perform a given task	Inference is the process of using a trained AI model to make predictions or decisions on new, unseen data (or prompts)
Resource demand	Requires extremely high compute, memory and electricity	Lower energy and cooling requirements per site but offset by the need to replicate infrastructure across many regional data centres
Location	Centralised within a small number of hyperscale data centres	Distributed across dozens of regional or city-based data centres to be close to end-users
Latency sensitivity	Not latency-sensitive; training run can last for days or weeks	Highly latency-sensitive; must deliver real-time or near-real-time responses to local users
Customer profile	Global AI model developers (e.g. OpenAI)	Local end-users (e.g. customers in ASEAN markets where latency corridor is low)
Competing countries		

To unlock this opportunity, Australia should invest in sovereign compute, standards-based infrastructure, and regional ‘data embassies’ – secure cross-border hosting arrangements that enable Australia to process and store data on behalf of regional partners in trusted environments. These arrangements would enhance Australia’s role as a trusted regional cloud infrastructure provider and support interoperability and innovation across the Indo-Pacific. By harmonising IT and data standards with regional counterparts, Australia can accelerate the safe and

interoperable deployment of AI across borders. OpenAI’s models, already optimised for inference and widely used in latency-sensitive applications, demonstrate the real-world value of this infrastructure, particularly in sectors like education, law, and healthcare.

The following proposals aim to remove barriers to investment and position Australia as a competitive regional hub for AI infrastructure:

Challenge Policy suggestions

Insufficient growth in digital infrastructure and AI-ready data centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a single, streamlined approval process for AI infrastructure projects to reduce delays and accelerate deployment Harmonise standards, including environmental standards, to address underlying problems driving inefficiency while improving stated environmental protection objectives Offer federal backstops (e.g. offtake guarantees, credit enhancements) for AI infrastructure Fund a National AI research resource to provide shared compute/data
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Challenge	Policy suggestions
Energy supply challenges – spanning cost, reliability, and access to renewables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with industry to ensure that energy infrastructure and capacity planning is aligned with long-term industry forecasts and demand projections • Accelerate hybrid finance and underwriting models for long duration energy storage assets (e.g., expanding Australia’s Capacity Investment Scheme) to help overcome capital challenges and delays¹⁸ • Reform electricity market incentives to reward grid stabilisation services to also improve grid stability¹⁹ • Streamline permitting for energy infrastructure, coordinate transmission strategy/planning²⁰ and increase compensation for landholders^{21, 22, 23}, to accelerate the required transmission infrastructure for the energy transition • Through the Rewiring the Nation program, expand targeted underwriting and co-contributions to the development of new infrastructure assets important for the transition, including transmission lines²⁴
Concerns on water availability for large-scale infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote greater collaboration on planning and approvals between water agencies and industrial users, particularly to forecast capacity needs and ensure water supplies are managed sustainably²⁵
Existing barriers for developers of AI models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update and modernise copyright law to accelerate AI development

Australia can lead regional innovation on AI while strengthening economic and national security

In the context of intensifying geopolitical competition over critical technologies, Australia has a strategic role to play in anchoring AI governance, infrastructure, and security in the Indo-Pacific. As regional economies race to adopt and regulate AI, Australia can shape a trusted, rules-based approach by drawing from the most innovation-forward elements of global regulatory models, particularly those of pro-innovation democracies like Singapore and Japan, while adapting them to its own institutional and legal context.

Working alongside advanced regional peers such as Singapore, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan, Australia can drive alignment on AI standards, promote responsible access to compute, and foster data centre cooperation to safeguard sovereignty and resilience across the region. In so doing, Australia can help ensure that AI strengthens, not destabilises, security and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

Domestically, bolstering AI capability is vital to national resilience. Australia faces growing cyber threats, foreign interference, and risks of AI misuse. Addressing these challenges requires investment in AI-enabled threat detection, disinformation monitoring, and national safeguards for high-risk applications like autonomous weapons or surveillance. These efforts will help protect Australia’s institutions, and position it as a regional leader in secure, responsible AI deployment.

18 Clean Energy Council (2024) The future of long duration energy storage
 19 Clean Energy Investor Group (2024) Energy Storage Financeability in Australia
 20 IEA (2024) Building the Future Transmission Grid
 21 Wood (2023) The great transmission challenge
 22 Clean Energy Council (2022) Market Sounding Report on Transmission
 23 VicGrid (2024) Compensation and landholder payments
 24 Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (2025) Rewiring the Nation
 25 Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (2025) National Urban Water Planning Principles



Conclusion

A Turning Point for Australia's AI Future

Artificial intelligence is arguably the most significant economic and strategic opportunity of our time. For Australia, seizing this opportunity will mean unlocking a new wave of productivity, building world-class digital infrastructure, delivering better public services, and securing national resilience in a more uncertain world.

The foundations of success are already in place. Australia boasts a strong education system, trusted public institutions, and clear infrastructure advantages. But realising the full benefits of AI will require coordinated action across government, business, and civil society.

This Blueprint outlines a path forward. By investing in skills, infrastructure, and responsible AI deployment, Australia can shape a future where AI drives inclusive growth at home and supports openness, stability, and cooperation across the Indo-Pacific. If successful, Australia won't just adapt to the AI era, it will help define it.



OpenAI

MANDALA

Cover image created with Sora

Attachment B: Summary of OpenAI's Economic Blueprint for Australia

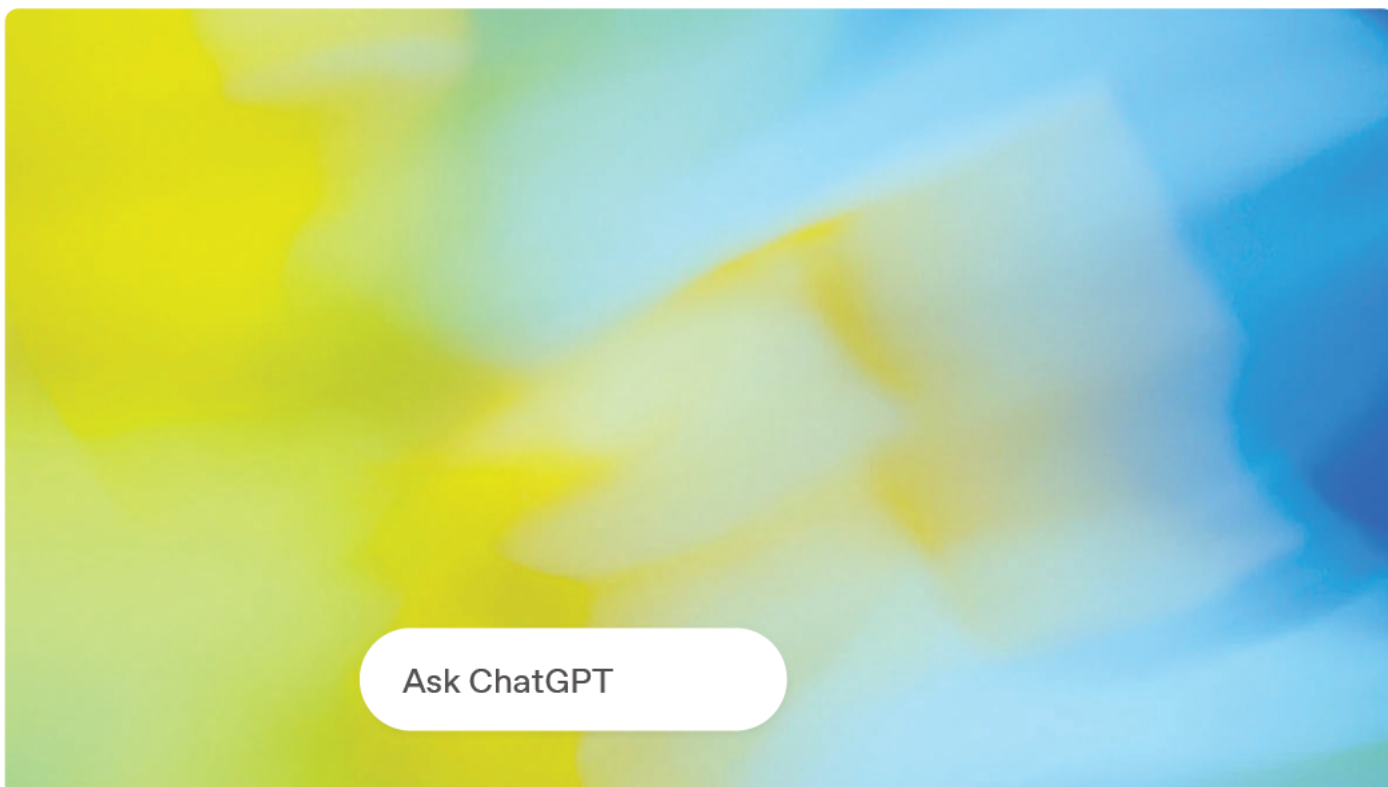
- OpenAI believes AI to be a transformative general-purpose technology that, like electricity, will change how we live, work and interact with one another.
- They note that, while Australian consumers have been quick adopters of AI technology, Australia's policy settings have tended toward a cautious 'wait and see' approach to AI, shaped by concerns arising from earlier waves of digital technology.
- OpenAI argues that Australia needs to act more boldly and decisively to maximise AI's possibilities while ensuring it is used responsibly to mitigate potential negative effects. Their Economic Blueprint outlines their proposals for how Australia can realise the promise of AI.
- The Blueprint identifies four key opportunity areas where AI can deliver lasting benefits to the Australian economy and society:
 - using AI to kickstart **productivity** across the economy
 - The Blueprint notes that Australia's economic success depends on reversing a long-term productivity slowdown, and that targeted AI investment and broad diffusion across all sectors can help unlock new growth, higher wages and improved living standards.
 - Challenges include low 'AI readiness' across the workforce, slow enterprise adoption of AI, and a need for clearer, common-sense rules to guide responsible AI use.
 - transforming the **education** sector through responsible AI integration
 - The Blueprint notes that education is core to economic competitiveness but Australia's learning outcomes are declining, and that AI offers a way to help reverse the decline.
 - Challenges include AI not being embedded in school curricula, and limited formal avenues for young people to experiment, innovate and build AI tools and applications.
 - using AI to boost the effectiveness of **government service** delivery
 - The Blueprint notes that AI presents an opportunity boost the efficiency and effectiveness of government service delivery, pointing to Pennsylvania and Singapore as two successful examples for Australia to build on.
 - Challenges include government data being underutilised for AI innovation and public policy, AI capability within government being limited and uncoordinated, and outdated and slow procurement processes.

- investing in **AI infrastructure** for domestic strength and regional leadership
 - Australia’s land availability, stability, and growing access to high-performance computing infrastructure make it a strong contender for AI training capacity beyond US and European hubs. Simultaneously, it can lead on inference for ASEAN markets by providing a trusted, low-latency corridor for AI services.
 - Investing in domestic AI infrastructure creates an exportable capability. Without it, Australia risks becoming a net importer of compute capacity as demand grows. Building locally allows Australia to treat AI infrastructure as a strategic asset rather than a dependency.
 - Challenges include insufficient growth in digital infrastructure and AI-ready data centres, energy supply challenges, concerns about water availability for large-scale infrastructure, and legal barriers for developers of AI models (including copyright).
- The Blueprint proposes a 10-Point AI Action Plan as follows (along with more detailed sub-proposals):
 - roll out national AI skills training for workers, students, and managers
 - offer targeted tax incentives for all businesses adopting AI
 - embed AI literacy and responsible use in schools and universities
 - modernise government services delivery through responsible AI
 - provide secure access to government data for public-interest AI use
 - upskill public service and empower a central AI capability unit
 - reform AI procurement rules to support innovation and pilots
 - invest in AI-ready infrastructure like data centres and compute
 - ensure access to affordable, renewable energy for AI infrastructure
 - establish Australia as a trusted regional hub for AI standards and investment in the Indo-Pacific.

May 7, 2025 Global Affairs

Introducing OpenAI for Countries

A new initiative to support countries around the world that want to build on democratic AI rails.



▶ Listen to article | 3:57

🔗 Share

Our Stargate project, an unprecedented investment in America’s AI infrastructure announced in January with President Trump and our partners Oracle and SoftBank, is now underway with our first supercomputing campus in Abilene, Texas, and more

sites to come.

We've heard from many countries asking for help in building out similar AI infrastructure—that they want their own Stargates and similar projects. It's clear to everyone now that this kind of infrastructure is going to be the backbone of future economic growth and national development. Technological innovation has always driven growth by helping people do more than they otherwise could—AI will scale human ingenuity itself and drive more prosperity by scaling our freedoms to learn, think, create and produce all at once.

We want to help these countries, and in the process, spread democratic AI, which means the development, use and deployment of AI that protects and incorporates long-standing democratic principles. Examples of this include the freedom for people to choose how they work with and direct AI, the prevention of government use of AI to amass control, and a free market that ensures free competition. All these things contribute to broad distribution of the benefits of AI, discourage the concentration of power, and help advance our mission. Likewise, we believe that partnering closely with the US government is the best way to advance democratic AI.

Today, we're introducing OpenAI for Countries, a new initiative within the Stargate project. This is a moment when we need to act to support countries around the world that would prefer to build on democratic AI rails, and provide a clear alternative to authoritarian versions of AI that would deploy it to consolidate power.

In response to these interested governments, OpenAI is offering a new kind of partnership for the Intelligence Age. Through formalized infrastructure collaborations, and in coordination with the US government, OpenAI will:

- **Partner with countries to help build in-country data center capacity.** These secure data centers will help support the sovereignty of a country's data, build new local industries, and make it easy to customize AI and leverage their data in a private and compliant way.
- **Provide customized ChatGPT to citizens.** This will help deliver improved healthcare and education, more efficient public services, and more. This will be AI of, by, and for the needs of each particular country, localized in their language

and for their culture and respecting future global standards.

- **Continue evolving security and safety controls for AI models.** As our models become more powerful, we will continue to make investments in the processes and controls, including the data center and physical security needed to deploy, operate and protect them. As part of AI safety, it is critical to respect democratic processes and human rights; we are excited to collaborate on future directions for global democratic input to shape AI.
- **Together, raise and deploy a national start-up fund.** With local as well as OpenAI capital, together we can seed healthy national AI ecosystems so the new infrastructure is creating new jobs, new companies, new revenue, and new communities for each country while also supporting existing public- and private-sector needs.
- **Partner countries also would invest in expanding the global Stargate Project—** and thus in continued US-led AI leadership and a global, growing network effect for democratic AI.

As OpenAI moves forward with OpenAI for Countries, our goal is to pursue **10 projects** with individual countries or regions as the first phase of this initiative, and expand from there.

We look forward to engaging with interested countries through their representatives in the US and through our executives based in our offices around the world.

2025

Author

OpenAI

Attachment E: Biographies

Sandy Kunvatanagarn, Head of Policy APAC at OpenAI

- Ms Kunvatanagarn was appointed Head of Policy, APAC at OpenAI in February 2024.
- She previously held senior positions at Meta, including Head of Global Strategy, Reality Labs Policy (2022-2023), and Global Strategic Initiatives Manager (2020-2022).
- Prior to joining Meta, Ms Kunvatanagarn worked as US Diplomat (2011-2018) and in legal roles at the International Rescue Committee and Reed Smith LLP.



Dr Aaron 'Ronnie' Chatterji, Chief Economist of OpenAI and Distinguished Professor at Duke University

- Dr Chatterji was appointed OpenAI's first chief economist in October 2024.
- Dr Chatterji is currently leading a team of researchers investigating how AI will influence economic growth and job creation, including the global economic impacts of building AI infrastructure, insights on longer-term labour market trends and how to help the current and future workforce harness the benefits of this technology.
- He is the Mark Burgess & Lisa Benson-Burgess Distinguished Professor of Business and Public Policy at Duke University.
- From December 2022 – August 2023, Dr Chatterji served as the White House CHIPS coordinator, overseeing the implementation of the \$52 billion CHIPS and Science Act. He was also the Acting Deputy Director of the White House National Economic Council, overseeing the Administration's work on supporting American manufacturing, building more resilient supply chains, and driving technological innovation.
- He held roles as Chief Economist of the U.S. Department of Commerce and as a Senior Economist at the White House Council of Economic Advisors under President Obama.



From: Ayres, Tim (Senator) <Senator.Ayres@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 May 2026 12:15 PM
To: s 22
Subject: FW: Request from OpenAI to launch 'Australia's AI Opportunity' on Monday 20 October
Attachments: 20251007_OpenAI_Ayres.pdf

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

From: s 22 @bourkestreetadvisory.com s 22 @bourkestreetadvisory.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 October 2025 8:15 AM
To: Ayres, Tim (Senator) s 22
Cc: Invitations Ayres <Invitations.Ayres@industry.gov.au>
Subject: Request from OpenAI to launch 'Australia's AI Opportunity' on Monday 20 October

Good morning Minister Ayres,

Please see attached for a request from OpenAI to launch a 'Australia's AI Opportunity' in either Canberra or Sydney on the morning of Monday 20 October 2025.

OpenAI's Chief Global Affairs Officer, Chris Lehane, will also be in attendance at the event.

A request has also been sent to Minister Charlton. If you need anything further, please let me know.

Thank you.



AMELIA METCALF

Founder and Managing Director
Bourke Street Advisory

s 22



7 October 2025

Dear Minister Ayres,

From:

Sandy Kunvatanagarn
Head of Policy, APAC
OpenAI

I am writing to ask you to attend and speak at the launch of a new report, 'Australia's AI Opportunity'.

To:

Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Minister for Industry and Innovation
Minister for Science
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

We plan to launch the report at a breakfast event on Monday 20 October 2025 in either Canberra or Sydney, depending on which location best suits your schedule.

Via:

[s 22
invitations.ayres@industry.gov.au](mailto:invitations.ayres@industry.gov.au)

The report identifies three commonly cited economic scenarios in which Australia can gain economic value from AI and models their potential value to the Australian economy. It also considers how different groups benefit under the scenarios, what it would take to realise them, and any barriers that may be faced.

The three scenarios are one where Australia adopts AI, a scenario where Australia intentionally builds AI capability, and a scenario where Australia seeks to be a regional AI hub in Asia.

The report has been overseen and will be released by a broad-based coalition of industry associations representing different parts of the Australian economy. Members of the associations participated in joint workshops to ensure the scenarios reflected the perspective of these different groups.

The purpose of this collective effort is to better articulate the different types of economic opportunities that Australia can aspire to related to AI, and to explain how this impacts different groups of Australians.

The research report has been prepared by Shahar Merom, an economist and data scientist, in collaboration with the report partners. Funding to support the work was provided by OpenAI.

Our government affairs representative in Australia, Amelia Metcalf, on [@s 22](https://twitter.com/s22) @bourkestreetadvisory.com is the liaison for coordinating this engagement.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Sandy Kunvatanagarn
Head of Policy, APAC
OpenAI

From: Invitations Ayres <Invitations.Ayres@industry.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 November 2025 11:59 AM
To: s 22 @bourkestreetadvisory.com
Subject: RE: Invitation to celebrate the launch of OpenAI in Australia - 2 December 2025

Dear Amelia,

Thank you for contacting Minister Ayres on behalf of OpenAI with the invitation to attend a reception in celebration of OpenAI's launch in Australia, scheduled for Tuesday the 2nd of December.

Unfortunately, the Minister is unable to attend as he will be traveling interstate.

We wish you the best for a successful event.

Kind regards,

s 22 | **Administrative Assistant**
Office of Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Minister for Industry and Innovation
Minister for Science
Senator for NSW
s 22

The Australian Government acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

From: s 22 @bourkestreetadvisory.com
Sent: Tuesday, 4 November 2025 7:06 AM
To: s
Cc: ? Invitations Ayres
Subject: Invitation to celebrate the launch of OpenAI in Australia - 2 December 2025

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Minister Ayres,

Please see attached for an invitation from OpenAI to attend an evening reception at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia on Tuesday 2 December 2025.

The event will launch OpenAI in Australia with leaders from Australia's AI community to commemorate this milestone, explore the latest OpenAI technologies and discuss Australia's role in the AI landscape.

Thank you,

s 22

From: Christopher Lehane ^{s 22} @openai.com>
Sent: Friday, 14 November 2025 12:51 PM
To: Kevin Rudd
Cc: Sarah Friar; Jason Kwon; Kate Pounder; Benjamin Schwartz; Oliver Jay; David Badea; Hunt, Sarah; ^{s 22}
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Thank you and office opening invitation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION - This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks all...

Minister Ayres and Secretary Charlton (who I had the pleasure of spending some time with just a few weeks ago) — the team will follow up.

On Wed, Nov 12, 2025 at 9:33 AM Kevin Rudd ^{s 22} wrote:

OFFICIAL

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for this note. I am copying into this email the offices of Minister Tim Ayres and Cabinet Secretary Andrew Charlton. They lead our government's work on critical technology and AI.

They and their offices are well-placed to convey the requests below.

I am otherwise committed in the US on the day of your opening, but look forward to hearing about the event.

Speaking to Mel and Cliff soon.

Keep in touch.

Kind regards,

Kevin

H.E. The Hon. Dr. Kevin Rudd AC

Ambassador of Australia to the United States

26th Prime Minister of Australia

From: Sarah Friar ^{s 22} @openai.com>
Sent: Sunday, 9 November 2025 1:49 PM
To: ^{s 22} @dfat.gov.au>; Kevin Rudd ^{s 22}
Cc: Jason Kwon ^{s 22} @openai.com>; Christopher Lehane ^{s 22} @openai.com>; Kate Pounder ^{s 22} @c-openai.com>; Benjamin Schwartz ^{s 22} @openai.com>; Oliver Jay

<s 22 @openai.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank you and office opening invitation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

Dear Ambassador Rudd (Kevin),

It was such a pleasure speaking with you at the Citi conference; thank you for taking the time to meet and wonderful to hear a bit more about your background and our farming and reading commonality!. As I mentioned, we would be delighted to welcome you, and if possible the Prime Minister, to our Sydney office opening on December 2.

I also appreciate your interest in Stargate and our work on the OpenAI Jobs Platform and Certifications program; we'll keep you updated as they progress. Should we make an announcement, we would be delighted to have you and the Prime Minister in attendance for it. I've copied Jason, Chris, Kate, and Ben from our side as they are driving much of the Australia portfolio and can help keep things moving. But, please feel free to use me as a resource as we move forward. And congrats on celebrating Mel and Cliff on Australia Day - cannot think of a better duo to receive the recognition.

All the best
Sarah

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Sarah Friar

CFO

s 22 @openai.com | s 22

s 22