

Chair

Ms Diane Brown
Division Head of Financial System Division
The Treasury
Attention: Laura Llewellyn
Via email: diane.brown@treasury.gov.au

Dear Ms Brown

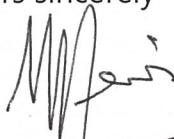
Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Treasury's consultation on extending Crowd-Sourced Equity Funding (CSEF) to proprietary companies.

Innovation and Science Australia (ISA) is an independent statutory board with responsibility for providing strategic whole-of-government advice to the Government on all innovation, science and research matters. The Government has tasked ISA with developing a 2030 Strategic Plan to help guide its investment in the Australian innovation, science and research system. The Strategic Plan will contribute to the wellbeing and prosperity of all Australians by ensuring that Australia reaches its innovation potential.

The Board is supportive of the proposed Corporations Amendment (Crowd-sourced Funding for Proprietary Companies) Bill 2017. This proposed legislation is broadly consistent with the consultations that ISA has undertaken in the development of its 2030 Strategic Plan. The ability to raise sufficient capital is important to maintaining growth in the innovation system, especially for small to medium enterprises.

However, as the innovation system and its associated needs for financing is rapidly evolving, the Board suggests that the impact of this legislation is reviewed no later than three years after it comes into effect.

Yours sincerely



Bill Ferris AC

13 June 2017