

# Memorandum of Understanding

Between the

Digital Transformation Agency

and

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Australian National University

Australian Taxation Office

Bureau of Meteorology

Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research  
Organisation

Department of Finance

Department of Human Services

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

Digital Transformation Agency

Geoscience Australia

National Archives of Australia

As represented by their participants in the Australian Government  
Linked Data Working Group

This *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU) is made this                    day of                    2017

Between

The *Digital Transformation Agency*, as represented by their Domain Name Section

and

the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian National University, the Bureau of Meteorology, the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation, the Department of Finance, the Department of Human Services, Geoscience Australia and the National Archives of Australia (the other participants to this MoU), as represented by their participants in the Australian Government Linked Data Working Group.

## **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this MoU is to ensure that any changes to the Domain Name System (DNS) records for the `linked.data.gov.au` domain name involves a consultative process between the Digital Transformation Agency, who technically and authoritatively manages the DNS records, and the other participants in this MoU via the Australian Government Linked Data Working Group (AGLDWG).

This will be achieved by:

First, any potential DNS changes initiated by the Digital Transformation Agency or requested by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, including other participants in this MoU, be communicated to the participants of this MoU via AGLDWG communication channels (email list) who will then have an opportunity to reflect on possible implications of the change for their purposes.

Second, the participants to this MoU will then have the opportunity to raise concerns with the Digital Transformation Agency, if any and seek an amicable resolution.

## **2. Background**

The reason for this is MoU is that changes to the domain and subdomain DNS records for `data.gov.au` can have large impacts on the operating of Internet-based systems that rely on long-term stability of those DNS records.

Currently AGLDWG members rely on several `data.gov.au` subdomains to redirect web requests from long-term persistent web locations (PIDs) to web resource delivery systems.

Current reliance, as of February 2018 is on:

- linked.data.gov.au
- environment.data.gov.au
- governance.data.gov.au
- lab.environment.data.gov.au
- linked.data.gov.au
- transport.data.gov.au
- reference.data.gov.au

Future reliance is to be placed on the subdomain `linked.data.gov.au` and sub-subdomains of it only:

`linked.data.gov.au` – the current AGLDWG website

\*. `linked.data.gov.au` – multiple AGIFT-based sub-subdomains of `linked.data.gov.au`

This is to ensure that other subdomains of `data.gov.au` that the `data.gov.au` team relies on DNS records for, for example `data.gov.au` & `search.data.gov.au` are isolated.

Current, informal, arrangements for the AGLDWG's use of subdomains is arranged by the Digital Transformation Agency's Domain Name Management section who delegate \*.`data.gov.au` to web servers within the AGLDWG's control except for specific records for `data.gov.au`, `search.data.gov.au` & `blog.data.gov.au`. This allows the AGLDWG to manage all subdomains of `data.gov.au` not explicitly managed with individual DNS records, as `data.gov.au` and `search.data.gov.au` are. This will change with the delegation of `linked.data.gov.au` to AGLDWG's control only.

### **3. Legal status of this MoU**

The participants in this MoU do not intend to, nor do they have the authority to, create any legally binding relationship or obligations by entering in to this MoU.

### **4. Duration of this MoU**

This MoU has effect for a period of five years from the date of its execution unless earlier terminated or extended by participants in accordance with Section 11.

### **5. Participant Representatives**

The Digital Transformation Agency shall be represented by their senior executive responsible for their Domain Name Management section or a nominee of that person.

Other participants to this MoU shall be represented by their members of the AGLDWG.

### **6. Cooperation**

The participants will actively maintain a cooperative relationship in order to pre-empt issues for any other participant resulting from DNS planned or actual changes.

### **7. Recognition**

The Digital Transformation Agency recognises the AGLDWG as an unofficial, yet important, government community of practice that promotes and represents a series of federal Government entities who seek to implement and use Linked Data technologies for the betterment of Australian Government data sharing via the Internet.

The Digital Transformation Agency also recognises the delegates of the other participants to the AGLDWG as representing the Linked Data interests of those other participants.

The other participants recognise the Digital Transformation Agency as the current and correct *de facto* and *de jure* manager of the data.gov.au domain name and its DNS records.

The other participants also recognise the delegates of all participants to the AGLDWG as representing those participants Linked Data interests.

The other participants also recognise the Department of Finance's previous, long-term and sustained interest in Linked Data technologies and the AGLDWG and previous DNS support.

## **8. Digital Transformation Agency Undertaking**

The Digital Transformation Agency will:

Communicate any potential DNS changes initiated by the Digital Transformation Agency or requested by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, including other participants in this MoU, be to the other participants of this MoU via AGLDWG communication channels (email list) who will then have an opportunity to reflect on possible implications of the change for their purposes.

Hear reasonable requests from other participants in this MoU, via AGLDWG communication channels for alterations to potential DNS changes if the potential changes are thought to cause problems for the other participants' systems.

## **9. Other participants undertakings**

The other participants to this MoU will:

Communicate concerns about any potential or actual DNS changes to both the Digital Transformation Agency and one another via AGLDWG communication channels.

## **10. Joint undertakings**

Both the Digital Transformation Agency and the other participants will:

Work in good faith with the other participants to resolve any potentially problematic changes to data.gov.au DNS records.

## **11. Variation & Termination**

This MoU may be varied or terminated by either the Digital Transformation Agency or their other participants at any time and any such variation or termination shall be set out in writing and signed by both the Digital Transformation Agency and either all of the other participants or the AGLDWG on their behalf. Notification of variation or termination shall also be given to AGLDWG members via AGLDWG communication channels.

## **12. Dispute resolution**

All participants to this MoU agree to use reasonable efforts to resolve by negotiation any problems that arise among them (disputes).

If disputes are not able to be resolved by negotiation of participants' representatives, the dispute shall be raised to SES-level APS officers representing the participants. This is to ensure that difficult issues are dealt with at an appropriate level of seniority.

### **13. Record keeping**

The participants will document the administration of this MoU in writing, likely email communication.

### **Signing**

*Each party to this MoU has signed individually on a separate page and which are now all attached below.*

**Digital Transformation Agency**

Signed for and on behalf of the Digital Transformation Agency as represented by

Matthew Goonan, CTO :



Signature of representative

26/2/18  
Date

**Australian Bureau of Statistics**

Signed for and on behalf of the Australian Bureau of Statistics\_as represented by

\_\_\_\_\_:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Australian National University**

Signed for and on behalf of the Australian National University as represented by

\_\_\_\_\_:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**Australian Taxation Office**

Signed for and on behalf of the Australian Taxation Office as represented by

\_\_\_\_\_:

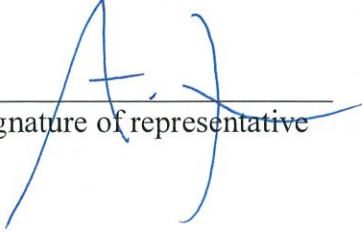
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Bureau of Meteorology**

Signed for and on behalf of the Bureau of Meteorology as represented by

ANDRE ZERGER      u/CDO

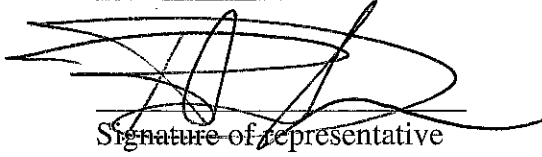
  
Signature of representative

24/1/18  
Date

**CSIRO**

Signed for and on behalf of the CSIRO as represented by

BRENDAN DALTON CIO :

  
Signature of representative

6-3-18  
Date

**Department of Finance**

Signed for and on behalf of the Department of Finance as represented by

\_\_\_\_\_:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Department of Human Services**

Signed for and on behalf of the Department of Human Services as represented by

\_\_\_\_\_:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet**

Signed for and on behalf of the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet as represented by

\_\_\_\_\_:

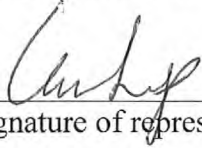
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Geoscience Australia**

Signed for and on behalf of the Geoscience Australia as represented by

CARINA KEMP A/G CIO, GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA :

  
Signature of representative

17/01/18  
Date

**National Archives of Australia**

Signed for and on behalf of the National Archives of Australia as represented by

Christine Johnston Assistant Director - General A/g  
and CFO

C. Johnston  
Signature of representative

18 April 2018  
Date