Guidance for the use of artificial intelligence in Tasmanian Government

What is AI ?

- A domain of computer science that focuses on building computer systems to imitate human behaviour with a focus on developing models that can learn and can autonomously take actions on behalf of a human.
- An engineered system that generates predictive outputs such as content, forecasts, recommendations, or decisions.

Why is AI Important?

- Innovation in AI technologies has become a major driver for opportunity and risk for Government.
- All jurisdictions in Australia are progressing policy and guidance linked to responsible and ethical use of AI.

Align with the National Framework for the Assurance of Artificial Intelligence in Government

- The Tasmanian Government is committed to the safe and responsible use of AI, and we recognise that public confidence and trust is essential to governments embracing the opportunities associated with AI.
- The Tasmanian Government has been working with Commonwealth and other jurisdictions to develop a nationally consistent approach to the safe and ethical use of artificial intelligence.
- The *National framework for the assurance of artificial intelligence in government* aligns with *Australia's AI Ethics Principles* and includes additional guidance common assurance practices.

Adopt the internationally aligned Australian AI ethics principles

Adapted from DISR 2019

- First published in 2019, Australia's 8 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ethics Principles are designed to ensure AI is safe, secure and reliable.

It is important that Agencies take a balanced view of the opportunities and risk associated with AI.

Opportunities

- For the Tasmanian Government, where appropriate, AI is likely to offer many benefits in efficiency and productivity enhancement, through – simplified and automated processes; improved service design and delivery; and improved policy development by collating, classifying, and analysing large volumes of unstructured information.
- 'Generative AI' (such as Microsoft Copilot) has potential to assist employees by automating well-defined and highly repetitive tasks, such as drafting routine documents, allowing us to spend more time on the more complex aspects of our jobs.

Limitations and Risks

- AI systems have limitations and can make mistakes. For this reason, humans should always provide oversight, and be accountable for outcomes.
- Risks with AI include potential for bias, discrimination, inaccuracy, lack of transparency and accountability. These issues are particularly important when working in the public sector.
- There are also issues relating to privacy and data protection, potential legal risks such as infringement of copyright and intellectual property, and in the worst cases the generation of malicious, fake, or illegal content.
- Protected or sensitive information must not be entered into open' or public AI platforms or tools under any circumstances.

Recommendations for agencies

Recommendation 1

Deploy AI Responsibly

Ensure that that AI is deployed in a way that it is safe, trustworthy, and ethical.

Recommendation 2

Adopt a Risk-based Approach

Assess the risk of the impact of AI in the context of specific uses and applications for the given appetite for risk.

Recommendation 3

Provide Policy and Guidance

Develop agency specific policy and guidance that is aligned with government and industry standards and frameworks.

Recommendation 4

Agree on Definitions

Adopt consistent vocabulary for AI across Government and contribute to the Tasmanian Government AI Glossary

Recommendation 5

Build Awareness and Capabilities

Ensure that employees have appropriate training, skills and knowledge to develop, deploy and operate AI systems

Recommendation 6

Align Procurement Practices

Align procurement practices with responsible deployment and risk assurance practices for AI.

Recommendation 7

Cooperation and Collaboration

Commit to a culture of collaboration and knowledge sharing in relation to AI, across government and across jurisdictions.