

# Our Digital Future

## Consultation Paper

March 2025

Digital Strategy and Services

**Department of Premier and Cabinet**

Our Digital Future Refresh – Consultation Paper



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# Message from the Minister



As Minister for Innovation, Science, and the Digital Economy, I am pleased to introduce this consultation paper to initiate a refresh of the Tasmanian Government strategy for digital transformation – Our Digital Future.

We are in an era of rapid digital transformation, where technologies like artificial intelligence, blockchain, the Internet-of-Things, and high-speed broadband technologies are reshaping our lives, jobs, and industries. These advancements bring both opportunities and challenges for Tasmania, and we must be prepared to harness their potential.

Digital transformation is crucial for innovation, productivity, and economic growth. It also plays a vital role in enhancing public services, improving quality of life, and ensuring sustainability. The Tasmanian Government is committed to leading in this space,

and we seek input from our stakeholders to shape our digital future.

Tasmania has unique strengths in sectors such as advanced manufacturing, maritime, defence, space, ICT, and health. By leveraging these strengths, we can develop robust digital capabilities that provide a competitive advantage. Our core industries, including agriculture, food, forestry, mining, and tourism, can also benefit significantly from digital advancements.

Investing in digital infrastructure and skills is critical to this journey. We need modern digital networks, secure data systems, and advanced STEM education facilities to create an environment where digital industries can thrive.

Our goal is to build a stronger, more diverse economy that benefits all Tasmanians. This includes embracing the benefits of digital transformation to create a resilient and inclusive digital economy.

To achieve this vision, we need your input. This consultation paper outlines some of the potential objectives, priorities, and approaches we may choose to take. Your insights, ideas, and expertise will help shape our refresh of Our Digital Future and influence the future strategy for our digital economy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Madeleine Ogilvie".

**Hon. Madeleine Ogilvie MP**

Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy

# Overview

The Tasmanian Government is refreshing the Our Digital Future strategy to accelerate digital transformation across key sectors of the Tasmanian economy. This strategy aims to drive innovation, productivity, sustainability, jobs, and growth through the adoption of digital technologies.

Digital transformation involves the integration of digital technologies into all areas of business and society, fundamentally changing how we operate and deliver value. Technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, the Internet-of-Things, and high-speed broadband technologies are at the forefront of this transformation.

Applying digital technologies across Tasmania's key sectors has the potential to address complex challenges, develop unique capabilities, boost productivity, attract investment, and create new industries and highly skilled jobs. However, adopting these technologies requires sophisticated planning, research, and significant investment in new systems and skills development.

The refreshed strategy will take a cross-sectoral approach to identify and address these challenges, focusing on applications with the highest strategic impact. It aims to foster collaboration across industries, encourage resource sharing, and facilitate investment in critical infrastructure and STEM workforce development.

## Digital transformation

### What is digital transformation?

Digital transformation refers to the adoption of digital technologies to create new or modify existing business processes, culture, and customer experiences to meet changing business and market requirements. It involves the integration of digital technology into all areas of a business, resulting in fundamental changes to how businesses operate and deliver value to customers.

### Why focus on digital transformation?

Digital transformation offers significant economic and social benefits, including increased productivity, efficiency gains, enhanced competitiveness, high-skilled job growth, new industrial capabilities, improved sustainability, and accelerated knowledge creation. The application of digital technologies can add substantial value to the economy and improve the quality of life for all Tasmanians.

### What are the barriers to development and adoption?

Adopting digital technologies involves complex integration of digital systems, robust data management, and advanced computational infrastructure. Barriers include high costs, lack of digital skills, resistance to change, and concerns about data privacy and security. Addressing these barriers is essential for successful digital innovation.

## Examples of digital applications

- **Agriculture:** Precision farming, autonomous machinery, smart irrigation systems.
- **Health:** Telemedicine, robotic-assisted surgery, digital health records.
- **Manufacturing:** Automated production lines, predictive maintenance, digital twins.
- **Tourism:** Digital booking systems, virtual tours, smart tourism infrastructure.
- **Energy:** Smart grids, renewable energy management, energy-efficient systems.

## Alignment with other key plans and strategies

The initiative to refresh Our Digital Future will complement and align with several key plans and strategies that guide Tasmania's development and growth. By integrating these key plans and strategies, the refresh aims to foster a unified approach for digital transformation, ensuring that Tasmania remains at the forefront of digital innovation and growth. This alignment will facilitate a cohesive strategy to achieve our broader goals of innovation, economic resilience, and community wellbeing.

The following key plans and strategies are relevant to Our Digital Future.

### **2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future**

The 2030 Strong Plan outlines the Tasmanian Government's vision for a prosperous and resilient future. It focuses on addressing critical issues such as cost of living, health, housing, and economic growth. Our Digital Future will support this plan by promoting digital transformation across sectors, enhancing digital literacy, and fostering a thriving digital economy, all of which contribute to the broader goals of the 2030 Strong Plan.

### **Advanced Technology Industries Strategy**

Still in development but with consultation complete, the Advanced Technology Industries Strategy aims to accelerate the development and adoption of advanced technologies across key sectors of the Tasmanian economy. Our Digital Future will align with this aim by encouraging the integration of digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, Internet-of-Things, and other emerging technologies, fostering cross-sectoral collaboration, and supporting the commercialisation of digital innovations.

### **Tasmanian Government Cyber Security Strategy 2024 - 2028**

The Tasmanian Government Cyber Security Strategy focuses on enhancing the security and resilience of Tasmania's digital infrastructure. Our Digital Future integrates and aligns with this strategy by prioritising cyber resilience, promoting a strong cyber security culture, and ensuring that digital services are secure and trustworthy. This alignment helps protect government-held information and services, thereby maintaining trust in digital government services.

### **Digital inclusion initiatives**

Digital inclusion is about ensuring that all Tasmanians have access to digital technologies and the skills to use them effectively. Our Digital Future will support digital inclusion by enhancing digital literacy programs, supporting access to digital infrastructure and services, and

addressing the digital inclusion for disadvantaged groups. This alignment ensures that the benefits of digital transformation are accessible to all Tasmanians, fostering a more inclusive digital community.

## Themes, objectives and priorities

The goal for refreshing Our Digital Future is to ensure our approach to digital transformation in Tasmania remains relevant and contemporary. The opportunity to accelerate digital transformation across key sectors of the Tasmanian economy to drive innovation, productivity, sustainability, jobs, and growth has never been more relevant.

We have identified the following themes to help frame the objectives and focus some areas of potential strategy. The potential themes, objectives and priorities are intended to facilitate engagement and ideation, they are neither comprehensive nor finalised, and we welcome your input, ideas and suggestions to ensure the strategy is aligned with the needs and expectations of the Tasmanian community.

### Foster a thriving digital economy

**Objective:**

Promote the growth of digital industries and the adoption of digital technologies across all sectors of the economy. Align priorities with the complementary priorities in the Advanced Technology Industries Strategy.

**Priorities:**

- Support digital innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Facilitate access to digital tools and platforms for businesses.
- Encourage collaboration between industry, academia, and government.

### Embrace emerging digital technologies

**Objective:**

Identify, explore, and integrate emerging digital technologies to maintain a competitive edge and drive innovation.

**Priorities:**

- Monitor and evaluate emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, low earth orbit broadband satellite networks, quantum computing, blockchain, digital twins and immersive reality.
- Foster research and development in cutting-edge digital technologies.
- Encourage pilot projects and experimentation with new digital technologies.
- Promote collaboration between industry, academia, and government to explore new digital frontiers.

## Enhance digital government services

### **Objective:**

Improve the delivery of government services through digital transformation.

### **Priorities:**

- Develop human-centred digital government services.
- Ensure data security and privacy in digital services.
- Promote transparency and accessibility in government operations.

## Strengthen digital infrastructure

### **Objective:**

Invest in robust digital infrastructure to support the growth of digital industries and services.

### **Priorities:**

- Improve broadband connectivity across the state.
- Build cyber resilience to protect digital assets.
- Address Tasmania's digital subsea cable backhaul connectivity issues.
- Coordinate a whole of government approach to technology infrastructure planning and funding.
- Establish a dedicated digital infrastructure co-investment fund.
- Develop measures to ensure accessibility, reliability, and resilience of critical infrastructure, including redundancy planning and disaster recovery strategies.

## Empower and include the Tasmanian community

### **Objective:**

Foster a digitally-inclusive community where all Tasmanians have access to digital technologies and the ability to use them effectively. Ensure that all Tasmanians can participate in the digital economy and society.

### **Priorities:**

- Enhance digital literacy programs.
- Facilitate affordable access to digital devices and internet services.
- Support initiatives that promote digital accessibility for disadvantaged groups and people with disabilities.
- Address digital divide issues in rural and remote areas.
- Foster community engagement in digital initiatives.

## Build digital skills and inspire the next generation

### **Objective:**

Develop a skilled community and workforce equipped with the digital skills needed for the future.

**Priorities:**

- Invest in STEM education and training programs.
- Promote digital skills development in schools and universities.
- Support lifelong learning and upskilling initiatives.



# Have your say

We invite you to provide feedback on any part of this consultation paper and we welcome responses to the below questions. We may contact you to gain further insight into your responses. Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted in relation to your feedback.

## Key questions:

1. What digital capabilities should be the focus of the strategy refresh?
2. What are Tasmania's digital strengths and capabilities? How can we build on these?
3. What digital solutions will have the highest impact on your community, organisation or industry?
4. What would working in Tasmania look like in five years time?
5. What digital services would you like to see government implement to better serve the community?
6. Are there any specific industry sectors where digital can drive innovation and productivity? Where will innovation come from? What are the barriers? What can government do?
7. What are the major challenges for research, development, and commercialisation of digital products and services in Tasmania? How can we address these challenges?
8. What infrastructure is critical to development and adoption of digital products and services?
9. What skills and training are most needed to support the development and deployment of digital solutions?
10. What are the barriers to training, attracting, and retaining skilled digital workers? How can these be addressed?
11. Should government integrate the industry components of Our Digital Future into the Advanced Technology Industries Strategy and focus on developing a digital strategy for Government Services?
12. What are the key barriers to digital technology adoption for your community, organisation or industry? How can we address these barriers?

**To provide your input, you can:**

- Complete the online survey available at [digital.tas.gov.au/our-digital-future](https://digital.tas.gov.au/our-digital-future)
- Send an email to [digital@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:digital@dpac.tas.gov.au)

**Please submit your feedback by 30 May 2025.**

## Information Collection and Use Statement

Information provided in response to this consultation paper will be used by the Department of Premier and Cabinet to refresh the Tasmanian Government strategy for digital transformation – Our Digital Future.

If you provide your personal contact information, the Department may contact you to discuss your comments and feedback.

Any information provided will be stored securely and accessed only by those personnel authorised to do so. In addition, any personal information will be managed in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*. The Department may disclose personal information in circumstances allowed for by law. You have the right to access your personal information by request to the Department.

You may request to have your personal information withdrawn at any time. If you withdraw, information you have provided will be deleted from the Department's systems and any hard copies destroyed.

Please note that information provided in response to this consultation paper may be subject to a request for disclosure under the *Right to Information Act 2009*. However, personal or commercially sensitive information relating to identifiable entities may be eligible for exemption. If the Department receives an application for identifying information from this survey, you will be offered the opportunity to provide your views in relation to any contemplated disclosure.



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