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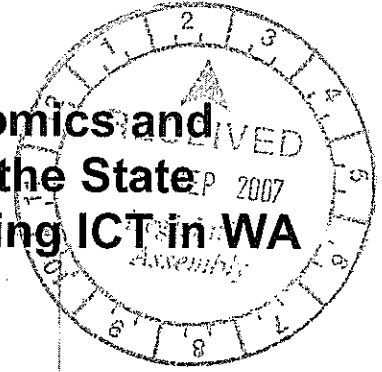# WA State Government response to Economics and Industry Standing Committee Report on the State Government's role in developing and promoting ICT in WA

Recommendation 1, Page 20

The Western Australian Government investigates the potential for a CSIRO ICT Centre in the state to take advantage of emerging opportunities in the resources and e-health sectors.

The state government supports this recommendation. The state government is liaising with the CSIRO with a view to developing a business case for consideration.

Recommendation 2, Page 38

The value of Technology Park to members of the ICT industry could be significantly enhanced by facilitating increased informal communication on site.

The state government supports this recommendation. This initiative is already being implemented by the Technology Precinct Reference Group, a group formed by the Department of Industry and Resources.

Recommendation 3, Page 42

The Committee recommends that the state government continue to work closely with the federal government to optimise the benefits of the SKA project for Western Australia and to ensure that the ICT potential is captured within the state.

The state government supports this recommendation. The state government is working with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and the Australian Telescope National Facility (ATNF) to optimise the opportunities that SKA offers.

Recommendation 4, Page 85

The Western Australian Government must streamline and simplify its funding submission and grant application procedures. An easier application process would be fair to industry and a strengthening of the acquittal process would ensure an appropriate balance between accountability and accessibility.

The state government supports this and will investigate options.

Recommendation 5, Page 86

Western Australian Government should use on-line resources to help streamline grant application and follow-up procedures.

The state government supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 6, Page 87

Eligibility criteria and submission requirements should be relative to the total grant size available.

The state government supports this and will investigate options.

Recommendation 7, Page 90

Clear information about the state government funding process must be readily available to industry members. Applicants should have timely information at all stages of the process, including an assessment of, and advice on, unsuccessful applications.

The state government supports this and will investigate options.

Recommendation 8, Page 92

Transparent programme evaluation must be introduced to ensure funding opportunities meet state government strategic objectives and industry development needs.

The state government supports this recommendation. Existing programs will be evaluated to ensure that the funding opportunities align with state government strategic objectives and industry development needs.

Recommendation 9, Page 97

The government needs to clarify its expectations of, and parameters surrounding, the Office of e-Government and ascertain whether the Office is structured to meet these aspirations. Consideration should be given to whether some aspects of the Office of e-Government are better suited to other agencies such as the Department of Industry and Resources, the Department of Treasury and Finance and the State Supply Commission.

The Office of e-Government's role is to facilitate improved service delivery and government efficiency through the use of ICT, and is not intended to extend to developing or promoting the ICT industry. However, the Government agrees that the

Office of e-Government needs to clarify its role within government and in relation to the ICT industry.

Recommendation 10, Page 97

If the Office of e-Government continues to exist its nomenclature should be amended to more accurately reflect the activities and functions of this Office.

The state government is satisfied that the Office of e-Government's nomenclature reflects its role, and is committed to ensuring that the Office effectively carries out its role and communicates this clearly to public sector agencies and industry.

Recommendation 11, Page 100

The Western Australian Government needs to provide strong political leadership and actively promote the local ICT sector through all means at its disposal.

The state government agrees with this recommendation

Recommendation 12, Page 105

Government should investigate providing increased funding between the proof of concept and proof of market stages to help address the innovation progression funding gap.

The state government supports this recommendation and is currently developing a suite of investor ready products.

Recommendation 13, Page 109

The Department of Industry and Resources needs to facilitate more industry networking and showcasing opportunities to facilitate industry accessing venture capital.

The state government will examine the potential to expand the networking and showcasing events in addition to that which it currently supports.

Recommendation 14, Page 114

The Committee recommends that the Western Australian Government, in cooperation with industry, develop an ICT portal that would:
- allow users to quickly and easily access information about the various assistance programmes;
- be constantly maintained to guarantee accurate information;
- provide a vehicle for industry feedback and promotion;
- provide for online submissions and applications;
- announce upcoming events; and
- facilitate any other opportunities benefiting the sector.

The state government supports this recommendation and the Department of Industry and Resources are investigating ways in which this might be implemented.

Recommendation 15, Page 114

Western Australian Government appoint a Chief Information Officer, a person with technical ICT expertise, leadership skills and a broad understanding of industry and government, whose role will be to champion ICT within government, and between government and industry.

The state government will investigate this recommendation.

Recommendation 16, Page 124

The current review of SPIRIT needs to be finalised as soon as possible to provide clarity and certainty to the industry.

The state government supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 17, Page 126

The state government should review its prequalification requirements for government procurement contracts to make this a more streamlined and cost efficient process.

The state government supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 18, Page 132

The Committee recommends assessment in January 2008 to determine whether the new liability provisions are meeting government and industry needs and expectations.

The state government supports this recommendation and this will be carried out by the Department of Industry and Resources.

Recommendation 19, Page 135

The Committee recommends that procurement staff receive appropriate training in the new contract provisions to ensure that they are in a position to engage in active negotiations with industry, and not simply revert to the default position of uncapped supplier liability.

The state government supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 20, Page 138

The creation of a specialised ICT procurement team could be of benefit to all departments and agencies and the establishment of such should be considered by government.

The state government supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 21, Page 141

Government should develop and implement a policy that facilitates agencies acting as a reference site for suppliers.

The state government supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 22, Page 141

The Western Australian Government should consider developing a state government reference site pro-forma for use by government agencies.

The state government supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 23, Page 150

The Department of Treasury and Finance should take account of the overall benefit to industry of procurement undertaken by government.

The state government does not support this recommendation. Merging procurement and industry development decision making invariably leads to a lack of transparency and accountability for each function.

Recommendation 24, Page 151

Government investigate ways of strengthening and expanding the 'Buy Local' Policy (in the context of ICT procurement).

The state government supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 25, Page 165

The Western Australian Government policy and practice regarding intellectual property rights must be critically reviewed with a view to maximising commercialisation opportunities.

The state government supports this recommendation and this work is currently being undertaken by the Department of Industry and Resources.

Recommendation 26, Page 169

The Western Australian Government should develop a policy regarding government agencies trialling innovative ICT products and services.

The state government agrees with this recommendation. The Department of Industry and Resources will engage peak industry bodies seeking their comment, prior to a policy being developed.

Recommendation 27, Page 172

More collaboration between the ICT industry and the education sector is needed to ensure that the education and training offered produces appropriately skilled people for employment in the industry.

The state government supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 28, Page 173

The Department of Education and Training and universities must ensure that curriculum being delivered to students is relevant and useful.

The state government supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 29, Page 178

The Western Australian Government provides funding to accurately and positively communicate the opportunities in ICT specifically to young women.

The state government supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 30, Page 192

The Western Australian Government should work with the federal government to increase skilled migration (temporary and permanent) to help fill ICT employment vacancies.

The state government supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 31, Page 204

The federal government redirect funds which would otherwise have been spent to support the development of broadband in Western Australia to the Statewide broadband initiative.

Since the report was tabled in Parliament, the Federal Government announced that OPEL (a proposed consortium between Optus and Elders) has been awarded the Broadband Connect Infrastructure Program funding to provide broadband connectivity to under-served areas in the Nation. Thus the Federal government has chosen not to redirect funds to directly support the StateWide Broadband Network initiative.

The OPEL proposals for Western Australia are focused on the South West of the State. Minister Logan has written to the Federal Minister for Telecommunications, Senator the Hon Helen Coonan, seeking details on the proposals in order that the WA Government can determine its impact on the SBN strategy. Note, the two projects are based on different objectives and the level of congruency cannot be determined until more details are to hand.

Recommendation 32, Page 210

Re-establishment of the digital content cross-agency group to give profile to the industry within government and help generate whole-of-government commitment to expanding the sector.

The Department of Industry and Resources will coordinate discussions with other agencies regarding this matter.

Recommendation 33, Page 210

Relevant Ministers need to support a cross-agency group on digital content and implement key performance indicators for Directors General to reflect the development of the digital content industry as a government priority.

The state government's position on this recommendation will be considered in the context of the outcome of Recommendation 32.

Recommendation 34, Page 213

The state government provide industry assistance and support to help maximise the opportunities for Western Australia's digital content industry.

The state government supports this recommendation and recognises the importance, to the Western Australian economy, of developing the Digital Content sector.