

Proposals Paper for Introducing Mandatory Guardrails for AI in High-Risk Settings

4 October 2024

Recommendations

This submission supports:

- > The introduction of a mandatory, ex ante, whole of economy approach to high-risk AI guardrails (option 3). This will provide a default baseline for government and the private sector with the option of domain-specific rules as needed.
- > The empowerment of an independent, capable regulator to enforce the Mandatory Guardrails. Effective regulatory schemes require a well-resourced regulator to ensure adequate enforcement.

About this submission

The Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (**ACCAN**) is pleased to provide this submission to the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (**the Department**) on the Proposals paper for introducing mandatory guardrails for AI in high-risk settings (**the paper**).

Artificial Intelligence (**AI**) is a rapidly evolving and broad technology that, with the right regulatory settings, can provide material benefits for consumers. AI can offer tailored services for consumers and potentially drive efficiencies in business, lowering the cost for consumers. However, as the paper notes, AI also carries risks of consumer harm through discrimination and data breaches.

We thank the Department for the opportunity to comment on the paper. Should you wish to discuss any of the issues raised in this submission further, please do not hesitate to contact Samuel Kininmonth, Senior Policy Adviser, at Samuel.kininmonth@accan.org.au.



**Australian Communications
Consumer Action Network**

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ACCAN is the peak body that represents consumers on communications issues including telecommunications, broadband, and emerging new services.

ACCAN provides a strong unified voice to industry and government as we work towards communications services that are trusted, inclusive and available for all.

The Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) is Australia's peak communication consumer organisation. The operation of ACCAN is made possible by funding provided by the Commonwealth of Australia under section 593 of the Telecommunications Act 1997. This funding is recovered from charges on telecommunications carriers. ACCAN is committed to reconciliation that acknowledges Australia's past and values the unique culture and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. [Read our RAP.](#)
