



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Industry,  
Innovation and Science**

→ Mrs Litley

Deputy Secretary

Nigel Ray *Nigel Ray*  
Treasury Building  
Langton Crescent  
Parkes ACT 2600

Dear Mr Ray *Nigel*

I am writing to indicate the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science's support for the proposed changes in the remaking of the Statistics Determination 1983.

The department is of the view that these changes represent a welcome and timely improvement to the ABS' capacity to release information, both publicly and under appropriate access controls. The changes will support the operation of the Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment (BLADE), and the department is keen to support all moves to facilitate access to BLADE and other high value integrated data resources. In particular, the department welcomes the proposed ability to release a wider range of business characteristics, which will be of considerable benefit in the formulation of new policies and programs.

The proposed improved availability of additional information on Government Business Enterprises, ability to release detailed business information with the business' consent, and the improvements to the level of detail in confidentialised unit record files, will all generate improvements in the ability of government and the research sector to understand businesses and the economy. The department understands that the ABS will continue to apply methods and processes to ensure that commercial-in-confidence information is managed appropriately.

Yours sincerely,

*E Kelly*  
Elizabeth Kelly PSM  
Deputy Secretary

Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

22 March 2018