



20 November 2018

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Submission on “Early thinking: Operational governance for trans-Tasman e-Invoicing Discussion Paper”

Dear Officials,

Introduction

This submission is made on behalf of the Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum (ANZLF). The ANZLF brings business and government together to help Australia and New Zealand prosper through trans-Tasman cooperation and the integration of our economies as a single economic market. The ANZLF is underpinned by an annual work programme of business-led activities and advocacy to realise opportunities to deepen the relationship. The ANZLF welcomes the opportunity to comment on the consultation document “Early thinking: Operational governance for trans-Tasman e-Invoicing Discussion Paper.”

Comment

Since the Prime Ministers Joint Statement in March 2018 on e-Invoicing, the ANZLF has publicly supported and encouraged the development of joint standards. We congratulate both Governments for providing the opportunity for our business community to engage in the policy development process.

The ANZLF would like to acknowledge and endorse BusinessNZ’s submission (attached). We would also like to share the following additional comments from members of the ANZLF Policy Group (steering committee).

We are supportive of trans-Tasman electronic e-Invoicing because standardisation and addressing discrepancies between the two economies benefits all sectors of the business community. E-invoicing would help to address inconsistencies facing many businesses seeking to operate with certainty across both markets. We see this as a logical step that will help to standardise processes.

Digitisation also has the potential to reduce costs associated with trading across the border. Our members see e-Invoicing as an opportunity to reduce administrative costs for businesses operating across and within Australia and New Zealand by reducing back-office costs associated with processing documents as well as speeding up processing time. We also see an opportunity to encourage businesses to engage in international trade.

In terms of broadening the system beyond Australia and New Zealand, the ANZLF expects that e-Invoicing could be expanded to other countries over time. However, due to the integration of our two economies we would like to see the system trialled extensively across the Tasman first to ensure the system is functional before we open it up to other countries.

Lastly, the development of any proposed system should have active business engagement. This would ensure that the practical implications for business are fully understood prior to the next stages of development and implementation.

Conclusion

Overall, the ANZLF is very supportive of e-Invoicing as it is an opportunity to broaden the Single Economic Market, improving the ease of doing business across the Tasman, whilst also preparing the two countries for digital transformation.

Due to the nature of our engagement with leaders in business and government, the ANZLF should be considered a key stakeholder in the development of an e-Invoicing system. We would happily participate and contribute in the development and welcome the opportunity to have further input into the process going forward.

One again we would like to congratulate the Government's on allowing the business community to be involved in this work. This project will be successful if the business community is engaged throughout the process and supports the development.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact if you would like to discuss e-Invoicing further with the ANZLF.

Yours sincerely,



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Co-Chair Australia
Chairman, Carnival Australia



Adrian Littlewood
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