

23 November 2021

Judge Paul Rice
C/- Evan Hill
Manager, Office of Data Analytics
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
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Dear Judge Rice,

RE: Review of the *Public Sector (Data Sharing) Act 2016 (the Act)*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to you on the above-mentioned review.

As outlined to you in our previous meetings in September and October, Business SA's feedback on the Review is relatively constrained by virtue of not being part of the South Australian Government. Therefore, we speak to the final term of reference: *Recommendations as to any other matters that may arise during the course of the inquiry.*

Business SA recognises the inherent economic and social value of data for established businesses, start-ups, emerging industries, and those looking to invest and set up in South Australia. Globalisation has led to increased international competition for business – public availability of this data will demonstrate the benefits of expanding into South Australia and will align with the government's Growth State agenda to create more jobs, investment, and economic opportunity. Further, access to this data could also lead to increased likelihood of funding for local business ventures leveraging the detailed evidence of local market data.

In our previous discussions we have spoken of the enabling nature of this Act. Business SA recommends data sharing enabled beyond the limits of the South Australian Public Service. The fact that the data itself must be understood as publicly owned and not tightly held by the State Government should be recognised in the legislation.

The benefits of releasing this data publicly would also go some way to improving government transparency and public confidence. One might even suggest that costs for the State Government could reduce considering a significant reduction in Freedom of Information requests if the desired data were freely available.

With that said, Business SA's feedback is quite simple – we recommend consideration that a new object be introduced to the Act: all non-identified data should be shared publicly, where it is not unlawful to do so. The intent of this new object is to ensure that, like the goal of the Act at inception, State Government culture shifts to enable proactive release of information for the betterment of all South Australians.

I trust this letter, along with evidence collected at our previous meetings will be of assistance to you. Should you require anything further, please contact me on (08) 8300 0073 or via email kendall.crowe@business-sa.com.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kendall Crowe".

Kendall Crowe
Senior Policy Adviser

