

Inquiry into Adopting Artificial Intelligence (AI)
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Senate Select Committee on Adopting Artificial Intelligence (AI)
16 August 2024

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Department of Industry, Science and Resources

TOPIC: Timeframe commitment

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, Page 71)

QUESTION No.: 2

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: I agree it's complex. And it's not going to get less complex. It's likely to get more complex. But pretty much every non-government submission has been that we need to get started. We need to start regulating and we need to start stacking some of this up. Is there a commitment that you're aware of from the government to start legislating in this parliamentary term? Is there any kind of time frame you can point to?

Ms Wilson: I'm not aware of a specific commitment around time frame, Senator.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: I'm not criticising you, Ms Wilson. These time frames are literally set by government, not by the department. I fully understand that. In terms of looking at the existing regulatory framework, to sort of tighten, toughen and tweak—I was saying that for alliterative purposes, not to minimise what you're doing—is there an expectation that some of that will have a legislative outcome in this parliamentary term?

Ms Wilson: Again, the time frame by which government chooses to implement options for mandatory guardrails is a matter for government, Senator.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: You're not aware of any commitment?

Ms Wilson: I'm not aware of any commitment. I'm just getting the people behind me to triple-check.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Yes. If you can shed any light on that, on notice, that would be useful.

ANSWER

The Government opened consultation on proposed mandatory guardrails for AI in high-risk settings on Thursday 5 September 2024, for four weeks. Following close of consultation, the Government will consider next steps regarding implementation.