



Digital Executive Board



2022/23

Pūrongo ā-Tau a te Poari Whakahaere
Matihiko – Digital Executive Board
Annual Report

**The Digital Executive Board operates as an
Interdepartmental Executive Board
serviced by Te Tari Taiwhenua
Department of Internal Affairs.**

Pūrongo ā-Tau a te Poari Whakahaere Matihiko

Digital Executive Board Annual Report 2022/23

Kōrero Whakataki

Introduction

The Digital Executive Board (the Board) was established in August 2022 as an Interdepartmental Executive Board (IEB) by Order in Council. Established under the Public Service Act 2020, the leads and drives the implementation of the Digital Strategy for Aotearoa (the Strategy) and its associated Action Plan.

The Board oversees and coordinates the delivery of priorities in the Digital Economy and Communications portfolio more broadly.

Mō te Poari

About the Board

Under Section 29 of the Public Sector Act 2020, the Public Service Commissioner selected the members of the IEB from the chief executives of the departments that are included in the Board's remit. The Commissioner could also appoint one or more independent advisors to the Board.

The DEB is coordinated across the Digital Economy and Communications portfolio and is administered by the following agencies:

- Te Tari Taiwhenua Department of Internal Affairs
- Hīkina Whakatutuki Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
- Te Tari o Te Pirimia me Te Komiti Matua Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Tatauranga Aotearoa Statistics New Zealand.

The inaugural Chair of the Board is Mark Sowden, Chief Executive of Tatauranga Aotearoa Statistics New Zealand. He was appointed for a two-year term.

Te hanganga me te tuku rauemi

Structure and resourcing

The Department of Internal Affairs was the servicing department for the Board and hosted the Board Secretariat.

As noted above, the Commissioner could appoint an independent advisor, but this has not occurred.

The Board appointed a director to:

- lead the work of the Secretariat
- keep minutes of Board meetings, communicate Board decisions and report on performance
- manage the relationship with the Minister's Office
- make decisions under delegated authority.

The Board has no staff, and it is serviced by Te Kōtui Whitiwhiti Digital Public Service branch.

Ngā takune ā-rautaki me te pūrongo i ngā mahi

Strategic intentions and performance reporting

Since August 2022, the Board was accountable for:

- leading and driving implementation of the Strategy, including progress reporting
- taking a systems-level view by aligning and coordinating strategic, policy, planning and budgeting activities for the departments that support the Digital Economy and Communications portfolio
- supporting and assigning these departments to undertake priority work and cross-agency initiatives in the digital area.

An overarching priority is the successful finalisation, publication and implementation of the Strategy but the Board also prioritised:

- Rural Connectivity – announcement of a Rural Connectivity Improvement Programme
- the Digital Divide – announcement of a multi-year and multi-agency work programme to tackle the Digital Divide
- the Cyber Security Uplift Package – development of a package of options for the Minister to consider and consult that may include items under the four streams identified in the Cabinet paper
- the Digital Identity Trust Framework – establishment of the framework and first tranche of accredited providers
- Measuring the Value of the Digital Economy – advancing a set of measures to measure the digital economy.

Ngā mahi a te Poari

Board performance

During the first months of operation, between August 2022 and June 2023, the Board focused on setting up and establishing processes to fulfil the strategic intentions.

Leading and driving implementation of the Digital Strategy for Aotearoa, including progress reporting

The overarching priority to finalise and release the Strategy was achieved in September 2022.

As a part of this Strategy, some work programmes were prioritised, and reporting was set up to monitor progress. Some of the projects have seen good success and the Board has kept oversight of these. In particular, the work programmes being monitored were:

Priority initiatives:

- The Digital Technologies Industry Transformation Plan – released in May 2023.
- The Digital Identity Trust Framework in legislation – passed into law in April 2023. Development of secondary legislation and the creation of Boards are advancing in preparation for it coming into force in July 2024.

Foundation Initiatives:

- Improving rural connectivity – government strategy ‘Lifting Connectivity in Aotearoa New Zealand’ released in December 2022 and progressing well with milestones.
- Māori Data Governance – work is ongoing with a Cabinet paper expected to progress this year.
- Data as a tool for decision-making and wellbeing – project closed out and successfully moved to business as usual.

Emerging Initiatives:

- Establishing a Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation – work is progressing to establish the Centre.
- Cyber Security Strategy – launched in 2019, there was significant progress in 2022/23 to commission and deliver a range of initiatives across the Strategy's five priority areas. Particularly notable is that initiatives to improve the cyber incident work is progressing to refresh this Strategy, as well as improve reporting and the response system in New Zealand, alongside progress towards an improved regulatory framework to enhance critical infrastructure resilience (including cyber resilience).
- Digital Inclusion Action Plan – while some budget has been attributed to digital inclusion across government, further work is needed. The Strategy's focus on digital inclusion has raised the expectations that the Government will do more to support digitally excluded communities.

The individual agencies were responsible for the delivery of each of the work programmes, while the Board oversaw the delivery to ensure implementation of the Strategy.

Taking a system-level view by aligning and coordinating strategic, policy, planning and budgeting activities for the departments that support the Digital Economy and Communications portfolio

In the time that the Board was convened, they were able to pull together budget bids from across the agencies to present a complete list to the Minister. That Minister was able to prioritise the bids through this process. The legislative bids were also coordinated across the agencies through the Board and delivered to the Minister.

There has been benefit to the portfolio through the Board, as the agencies across the portfolio were more connected.

Supporting and assigning these departments to undertake priority work and cross-agency initiatives in the digital area

After the Cabinet reshuffle in February 2023, the Board identified priority projects across the portfolio's work programme that would be the most important to do and presented this to the Minister. Departments remain responsible for the delivery of the specific work programmes.

Te anamata o te Poari

The Board's future

While the Board will continue as an IEB, in July 2023 Cabinet decided to amend its function and remit. These changes include:

- To reset the function of the Board to lead and drive a whole-of-system approach to joining up and modernising digital public services.
- To amend the functions of the Board so that it is accountable for supporting integrated delivery of public services around common citizens, clients and customers by:
 - Leading and managing the whole-of-system transformation of digital public services including producing and implementing a system blueprint for digital public services that enables clear sequencing and prioritisation of investment; and
 - Joining current work programmes at key points of overlap to build on progress being made across the public service.

The Board is no longer leading the Strategy, which will instead be led by a more informal grouping of relevant chief executives.

Cabinet agreed to amend the remit of the Board to include:

- Te Tari Taiwhenua Department of Internal Affairs (Government Chief Digital Officer and Chief Privacy Officer)
- Te Tira Tiaki Government Communications Security Bureau (Government Chief Information Security Officer)
- Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission (Head of Service)
- Tatauranga Aotearoa Statistics New Zealand (Government Chief Data Steward)
- Inland Revenue – Te Tari Taake (System Lead Service Transformation).

These changes will take effect once the Order in Council is finalised.

Te Tauākī Noho Haepapa

Statement of Responsibility

In accordance with Section 45C of the Public Finance Act 1989, it is the opinion of the Board that this annual report fairly reflects the operation, progress, organisational health and capability of the Board.



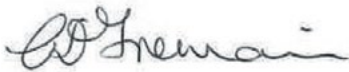
Mark Sowden

Chief Executive
Statistics NZ



Paul James

Chief Executive
Department of Internal Affairs



Carolyn Tremain

Chief Executive
Ministry for Business,
Innovation and Employment



Tony Lynch

Deputy Chief Executive
Department of the Prime Minister
and Cabinet

29 September 2023





Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government