

7 October 2021

Deregulation Taskforce – MDE Consultations
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500
Canberra ACT 2600

via upload

Dear Sir/Madam

Modernising Document Execution

We support reforms that enable the technology-neutral execution of documents. This follows our recent submission (attached) supporting legislation that will permanently allow business to use technology to hold meetings, and sign and send documents.

These initiatives support the Government's decentralisation and digitisation agenda and will be particularly useful for small business owners and directors in rural and regional communities.

We recommend that as this process to modernise and harmonise Australia's document execution legislation progresses, the Government leverages the networks of the various organisations that represent small business, including this office, to ensure small businesses understand the opportunities and their responsibilities under any legislative changes.

Beyond these proposed reforms, we suggest the Government explore the opportunities blockchain technology and smart contracts may provide to small business in contract execution. Smart contracts have the potential to increase the security of business contracts and associated processes, reducing the likelihood of related criminal activity.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Eamon Sloane on 02 5114 6108 or at eamon.sloane@asbfeo.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



The Hon. Bruce Billson
Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman