

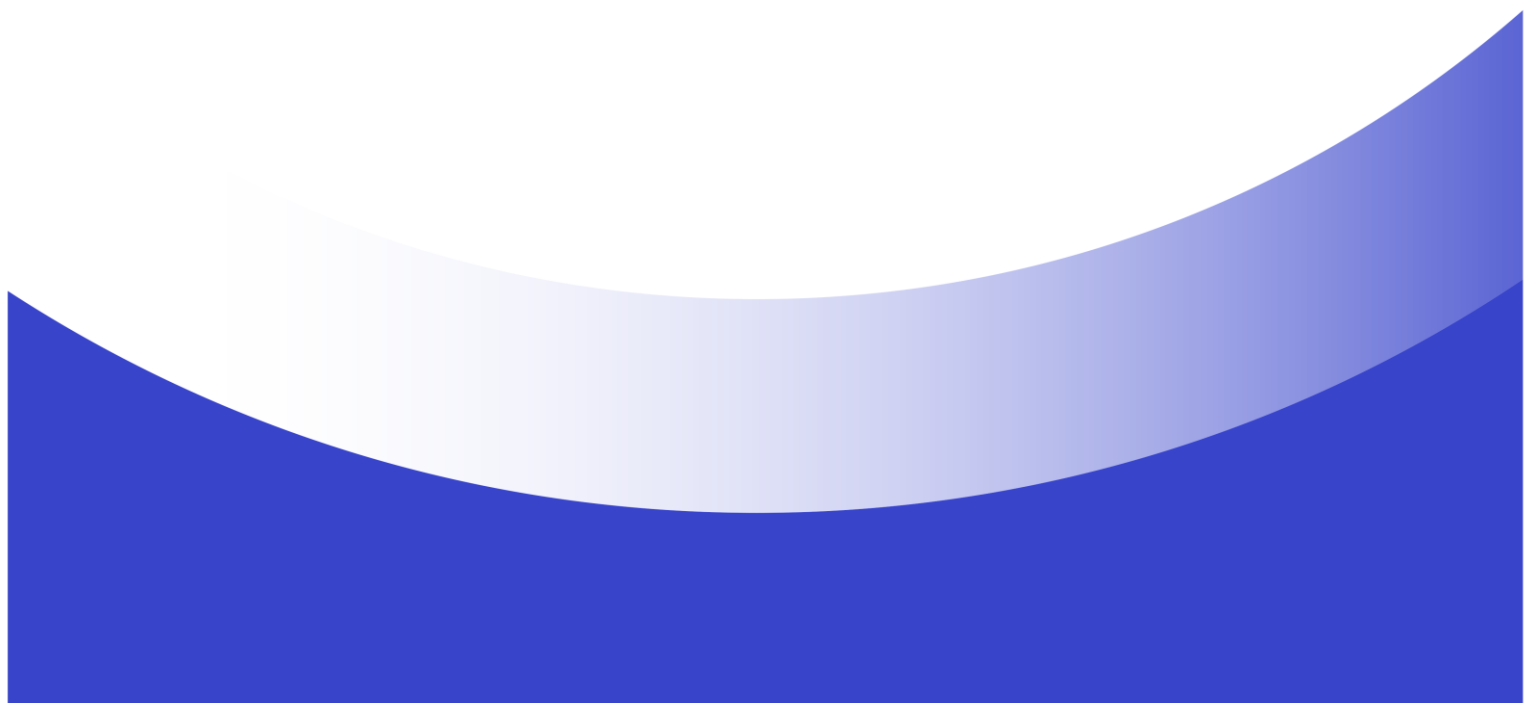


Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office

Modernising Business Registers (MBR) program Design Working Group (DWG)

Written update

8 June 2023



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them, their cultures, and Elders past and present.

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Program update

I am delighted to announce Karen Blok has joined the MBR Program as the Delivery and Integration lead, replacing Jodie Stevenson.

With an extensive background in delivering IT solutions for the Superannuation and Single Touch Payroll products, Karen brings a wealth of experience and expertise.

I am confident Karen's strong leadership skills and innovative vision will support the continued growth and implementation of the MBR Program.

Independent review

- We shared with members in February that an Independent Review of the MBR program had been announced (on 9 February 2023) and that the review, led by Damon Rees (and supported by a team of staff from Treasury, the Digital Transformation Agency and other agencies), was due to commence.
- The review, which is being conducted over 5 phases, is now well underway. Currently we are in phase 3 which includes deep dive workshops into key topics.
- In May, the first series of deep dive workshops were held on topics including ASIC IT systems, MBR finances, Professional Registers, Program Operating Model and Frameworks, and Companies.
- To date, 3 formal requests for information have been received. So far, over 150 documents have been provided across a range of topics.
- More than 40 interviews have been conducted with ATO staff, cross agencies, key program vendors and team members in design and delivery roles including ATO systems designers and configurators.
- Two site visits have occurred – one in Traralgon which provided a view of the current state of ABRS registry operations and ASIC regulatory operations. The other was in Brisbane, offering a view of the future state including an introduction to the solution technology.
- Two group interviews have been held, one with the Design Working Group (DWG) and the other with members of the Business Advisory Group (BAG).
- The Review team is continuing to work toward delivering a final report with recommendations by 30 June.
- As previously advised, program work continues in a scaled down manner while the Review is underway. We anticipate deliverables and commitments will scale back up post review.

Independent review – DWG interview summary

An out-of-session meeting was held with review lead Damon Rees on Friday, 6 April.

Key topics and themes discussed, included:

- desire for earlier involvement in MBR program design processes
- preference for regular one-on-one meetings
- more time to provide feedback on artefacts prior to meetings
- request for engagement and co-design sessions in the future
- prioritise wholesales services to maximise the industry's value-add
- challenges involved in designing and implementing the MBR program, including the need for clarity and transparency, accurate and up-to-date data, and early lead times for APIs
- concerns about the lack of involvement and communication with the industry in the design process and the need to reset the project for clarity and effective management
- recognition of the role members can play in the successful delivery of the program, as demonstrated in government initiatives - such as SuperStream, Single Touch Payroll, and JobKeeper.

Endorsement of the new Charter

In the April written update, you were invited to review the draft Charter, which was updated from the previous Terms of Reference.

The Charter provides a clear framework for our objectives, roles, and responsibilities.

Further work is being undertaken to ensure consistency and alignment of charters across ATO's working groups. Once this is finalised, we will come back and seek your endorsement.

Agenda items for future DWG meetings

As we continue to work towards our collective goals, we want to ensure you are supported in having meaningful discussions and are able to provide valuable contributions.

During the recent group interviews, led by Damon Rees, participants highlighted the need for transparency, visibility, and collaboration. In response to this feedback, listed below are the potential agenda item updates for the 5 September MBR DWG meeting:

- Government review status
- Law and Policy
- Document upload limit
- API filings

We appreciate your active involvement and thank you for your continued dedication and contributions to the group.