



MODERNISING BUSINESS REGISTERS DESIGN WORKING GROUP (MBR DWG)

OUTCOMES

Venue: WebEx Virtual Conference

Event Date: Thursday 14 November 2019 **Start:** 3.30pm **Finish:** 5.00pm

Chair: Natalie Ross - Assistant Commissioner, ABR Platforms, ATO

Contact: ModernisingBusinessRegisters@ato.gov.au

Industry

Attendees: Michael Criss, Yan De Horta, Nancy Kwan (Equifax)
Trevor Stephens, Martin Kemka, Matthew Prouse (Xero)
Andrea Cooper (IRESS)
Chris Denney (ABSIA)
Andrew Smith (MYOB)
Kevin Vargordi (Illion)
Matthew Addison (The Institute of Certified Bookkeepers)
John McCarthy (Pitcher Partners)
Frank Galati (Prime Consulting)
Robert Zitek (Corporate Express)
Jaya Teyjas (SAGE)
Carl Schutte (Reckon)
Warren Renden, Shami De Silva (BGL Corporate Solutions)

Government

Attendees: ATO: Natalie Ross (Chair), Martin Jacobs, Karen Redhead, Martin Mane, Brian Shepherd, Jason Phua, Aaron Mitchell, Tammy Gardner, Terry Seiver

ASIC: Tim Matthews, Klay Butler, Robin Hayes

Secretariat: Peter Taft, Jenny Coppock (ATO)

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Action item review – Natalie Ross

The Chair welcomed attendees to the third meeting of the MBR DWG.

Action items from previous meetings were reviewed and deemed to have been completed or would be completed via presentation at this meeting, other than two subject to Government decision:

Action Item	Who	What	Status
DWG -03	ATO	MBR Program dates and schedules – ATO to include co-design agenda items at future meetings addressing the theme of MBR Program dates and schedules – this will be an enduring co-design activity over each phase of the Programs delivery.	Subject to Government decision
DWG -09	ATO – MBR DWG Chair	ATO to share the high level options for the Company transition strategy	Subject to Government decision

Agenda Item 2: MBR Program Update – Martin Jacobs

It was reported that the ATO, ASIC and partner agencies were continuing design work on the MBR program in readiness for implementation, in anticipation of a funding announcement.

Agenda Item 3: Digital Partnership Office overview of ATO’s Digital Service Provider Roadmap and Operational Framework – Terry Seiver

An introduction and overview of the Digital Service Provider (DSP) Roadmap and Operational Framework (‘the Framework’) was provided, setting out the implications for DSPs in respect of the platforms that the ATO intends to rollout in the coming year.

Key points included:

- The DSP Operational Framework sets out the minimum level of information security requirements a provider needs to meet in order to consume ATO digital services.
- The framework was developed in response to known examples of misuse and destructive behaviour (eg identity theft, refund fraud and system hacks).
- The business register will provide new API services. Consumers of these services will need to meet some form of the DSP Operational Framework.
- The ATO recognises that the business register services are not the same – some will deal with public data and other services deal with updating private registry data – therefore the Operational Framework will need to support the varying levels of risk associated with these services.
- The next steps are to understand more about the environment – the potential risks associated with the new MBR services, existing requirements and operational models of information brokers and software developers.

Agenda Item 4: Director Identification Number (DIN) - would DSPs consider consuming the service to facilitate applications for the DIN? – Brian Shepherd and Tammy Gardner

A high level overview of the Director Identification Number (DIN) had been provided at the previous MBR DWG meeting. Summary level statistics about Directors were presented to members as part of the agenda papers for this meeting.

It was noted that the DIN initiative will provide APIs for DSPs to consume that will:

- enable a Director to be authenticated and request/apply for a DIN (this service is to be hosted on new ATO platform).
- update Directors to update their own details.
- enable an authorised office holder for the company to attach DIN to Director as part of a company record (this service will be via ASIC existing channel and include a check DIN service to ensure information is matched/correct).

A high level walkthrough of each of these processes was presented to members.

DSPs and other intermediaries expressed a strong desire to facilitate this initiative and play a critical support role to their clients. Consequently, members of the MBR DWG were encouraged to liaise directly with the MBR program for help in getting messages about the DIN initiative to their clients. Members also wish to overlap as many procedures for the range of initiatives including DIN, RAM, and MyGovID to minimise the touch points for Directors with government.

Members were interested to know if intermediaries would be able to act as an agent for their clients in respect of the DIN services. The ATO confirmed that under the new legislation Directors will need to authenticate their identity via MyGovID and only an individual director can apply for their DIN - there is no provision for “on behalf of”.

It was further confirmed that only a Director could update their DIN details which members stated would represent a paradigm shift from the situation where intermediaries have been authorised to support their clients with services such as maintaining their information with the ATO and ASIC. The ATO confirmed that further design work is being conducted in this space and further details would be provided at future meetings.

Members were advised that Directors based overseas and others with issues using the services would be accommodated and this is being designed as part of the overall DIN solution.

Agenda Item 5: MBR Consultation Summary – Karen Redhead

A high level summary of MBR consultation going back to 2017 was presented, including feedback on pain points, irritants and opportunities for improvement.

Consultation has taken place with the Digital Transformation Agency, Treasury, other agencies and impacted users. Emerging issues include:

- what the new MBR platform needs to achieve in terms of discoverability, design, and simplicity,
- data integrity and access,
- dealing with services that are not digital.

The consultation is contributing to the ATO's thinking around design and how the solution will look from an end user perspective, subject to legal and technical considerations. Testing with end users will be undertaken to obtain a greater understanding of how a solution will work.

Other issues being considered in the consultation include:

- legal obligations for end users.
- the interim stages of solutions design.
- prototype testing, transition and implementation.

Smaller co-design activities will be undertaken in anticipation of a funding announcement.

Agenda Item 6: Other Business - Natalie Ross

The terms of reference (ToR) for the DWG were revised to incorporate requirements in line with consultative arrangements managed by the Digital Partnership Office at the ATO, and suggestions raised at the previous DWG meeting. The ToR also incorporate the ATO's Consultation Protocol. The ToR were adopted as circulated.

It was suggested that the MBR Business Advisory Group ToR should be clear where it differs from those for the MBR DWG, and indicate where the interaction between the two consultative groups is.

Agenda Item 7: Next Steps – Natalie Ross

The Chair outlined suggestions for future agendas, including:

- a more detailed conversation about the DIN services
- a detailed component break-down of the MBR program
- companies transition
- visibility of internal discussions and alignment with other ATO and government programs

Members were advised that the MBR Program would provide a communication following any government announcement, with a view to the DWG meeting as soon as possible after the announcement, but unlikely to be in December 2019.

Next meetings:

MBR Design Working Group – To be confirmed

MBR Business Advisory Group – 25 November 2019