



## Key Outcomes

UNCLASSIFIED External

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| <b>Title:</b>      | PLS working group – key outcomes |                      |                       |
| <b>Issue date:</b> | 22 August 2019                   |                      |                       |
| <b>Venue:</b>      | WEBEX                            |                      |                       |
| <b>Event date:</b> | 20 August 2019                   | <b>Start:</b> 1:00pm | <b>Finish:</b> 2:00pm |

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|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Chair:</b>  | Sonia Lark    | <b>Facilitator:</b>   | Sonia Lark   |
| <b>Contact</b> | Sonya Summers | <b>Contact phone:</b> | 02 472 57383 |

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| <b>Attendees:<br/>names/section</b> | <p>ATO – Mick Ferris, Sonia Lark, Sonya Summers, Sharna Maltman, Paul Mosca, Danny Figueiredo, David Andreoli, Paul Walters, Amrik Singh, David Baker, Madhavi Talapaneni, Warren Sturgiss, Grahame Dunnicliff, Steven Irving, Tash Le Blond.</p> <p>Industry – Lex Edmonds (Microtax), , Scott Reid (MYOB), Nathan Kerr (One-Click), Kevin Johnson (Reckon), Michael Wright (Sage), Shane Paxton, Paul Siriwardana (Thomson Reuters), Grant Whytcross (Wolters Kluwer), Kelvin Newton, Andrew Sprankling (Xero), Damian Eley (PwC), Mark Walmsley (GoTax), Andrew Noble (LodgeIT), Quan Tran (H&amp;R Block).</p> |
| <b>Apologies:<br/>name/section</b>  | Jack Wee (Catsoft), Mike Denniss (Class Super), Sandeep Gopalan (GovReports), Trent Hayes, Mike Behling (MYOB), Saiful Larry, Darin Carter (Sage), Briony Campbell, Lisa Kim, Tania Dai (Wolters Kluwer), Anthony Migliardi (Xero).  |

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| <b>Next meeting</b> | 3 September 2019 |
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### Agenda item: 2– Further discussion on XBRL to XML transition

Steve Irving gave an overview of the discussions which have been occurring around the transition from XBRL to XML. The ATO made a decision to move to XML in 2016 and

this is a continuation of that decision. The ATO has been criticised for not moving to XML earlier.

Steve advised that there was now agreement to break the principle of only having one format per service. This would allow services such as the income tax return service to be transitioned incrementally, starting with the income schedule. To mitigate the risks, there will be a pilot carried out to create the income schedule in XML, however no dates for the pilot are available at this time.

Andrew Noble asked whether there were downsides to the transition or whether there were problems anticipated for the future.

Steve replied that the initial downside was that there would be two formats in one message, but XBRL is more expensive, and few DSPs want to remain on XBRL. He also advised that there more APIs used than heavyweight messaging, and that reviews have shown those messages are not appropriate for XBRL. The transition is expected to play out over a number of years as to do it all in one go would be impossible as it is too complex. Now having the ability to break the principle opens up the possibility of schedules being different to the main form.

DSPs interested in participating in the pilot should send an email through to the DPO mailbox [DPO@ato.gov.au](mailto:DPO@ato.gov.au).

### **Agenda item: 3 – Software Developer’s website transition**

Tash Le Blond gave an overview of the intent to migrate the Software Developer’s website to a new platform before the end of the year. She advised that there is an expectation of:

- a new look and feel
- improved functionality, and
- a better user experience.

Tash put forward the possibility of a change in domain name to obtain feedback from the group. There was no indication from the group that a change of domain name would have any negative impact on them or their users. The group provided feedback that they would benefit from improved search functionality and easier way to find information such as meeting minutes.

Phase 2 of the transition is planned for next year and will see consolidation with SBR.gov.au. Tash advised that the intent is to include DSPs in user testing during Phase 2 as it will be a single entry point for DSPs to access information, documentation and specifications.

### **Agenda item: 4 – Tax time 2020**

Mick advised there has not been a lot of change during the last fortnight, with no defect changes and very few outages. Shortlisting is still occurring to determine which services will be updated for TT2020.

A few of the DSPs advised there was an issue with the preservation age for spouses not being updated. Mick will follow up on this defect.

Xero queried whether the change advices would be available prior to the tax time event in Canberra. The DPO advised they were expected over the next week or so, and would be published as soon as they were received.

### **Agenda item: 5 – Platform update**

Madhavi advised the platform has been stable with no significant issues to report.

As mentioned at the last update, we are performing auto restarts on our MEIG operational nodes. This is mainly a preventative action in preparation for the large volumes.

PROD2 – capacity of our Reporting Servers had been increased to cope with the large storage requirements of the ATO reporting data.

PROD2 – Sterling SQL Servers SI CORE disk capacity has been increased.

PROD2 – Capacity of MEIG SQL Servers has been increased to support more IOPS.

Volumes for future months have been forecast and at this stage they are within the bandwidth of our ATO system capacity.

The majority of the stuck batches have been replayed. Root Cause Analysis continues and we have been providing fixes where we see fit to remediate the stuck batch issues.

### **Agenda item: 6 – Action item update**

Updates on outstanding items were provided. (see [action items](#))

The agenda for the Services for Tax Practitioner's event scheduled for 11 and 12 September are available here:

<https://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/ATODSPtaxpractitioners20190911>

The outcomes and pack from the IITR Granular data: income schedule workshop are available here: <https://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/IITRgranulardataincomeschedule>

### **Agenda item: 7 – DSP feedback/issues**

No general issues were raised by the group.

Sage asked that an issue they had lodged a ticket for be followed up – their account manager will follow up.