

Open Government Partnership

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September 9, 2024

The Honorable Patrick Gorman MP
Assistant Minister to the Attorney-General
Government of Australia

Dear Assistant Minister Gorman,

Thank you very much for our wonderful introductory video call of 22 September.

I'm writing to express our appreciation for the Government of Australia's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), a global initiative encompassing 75 countries and 150 local governments dedicated to advancing transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in policy making.

As you are aware, all OGP participating governments are expected to follow the [OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards](#) when co-creating an action plan of open government reforms. These standards have been recently updated by the OGP Steering Committee and came into effect in January 2022. The Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) assesses all countries that submitted action plans from 2022 onward under the updated standards.

As your Departmental officers know, during the 2023-2025 action plan cycle, Australia did not meet the minimum participation and co-creation standards, as assessed by the IRM in its [Action Plan Review](#). Specifically, the government published the timeline for the co-creation process after the process had started, and the public's suggestions for the action plan did not receive a reasoned response.

However, as the new standards were recently introduced, OGP instituted a 24-month grace period to ensure a fair and transparent transition to the updated standards. Therefore, although Australia did not meet the minimum requirements for its 2023-2025 action plan, in this instance it did not act contrary to process and will not be subjected to procedural review.

No further action is required at this time, but in order to avoid the possibility of future review by the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee of the OGP Steering Committee, we recommend that the Government of Australia makes every effort to meet the minimum requirements set forth in the standards during the development and implementation of its next action plan. Guidance on how to meet the new minimum participation and co-creation requirements can be found in the [OGP National Handbook](#); guidelines for their assessment by the IRM can be found [here](#).

The OGP Support Unit and Steering Committee stand ready to support you during the implementation of your current action plan and the development of your next one to make sure all requirements are met.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer

