

From: Section 22
To:
Cc: [AI Technical Standards](#); Section 22
Subject: RE: AI Assurance Framework Pilot - approaching the finish line! [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 20 January 2025 12:40:47 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[PostAssessment_Survey_CAAF_ATO.pdf](#)

Hi Section 22

Thanks for the reminder, I've attached our survey response.

Kind regards,

Section 22

ATO. Working for all Australians

From: Section 22
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2025 1:25 PM
To: Section 22
Cc: AI Technical Standards <aistandards@dtg.gov.au>; Section 22
Subject: RE: AI Assurance Framework Pilot - approaching the finish line! [SEC=OFFICIAL]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: STAY SMART, STAY SECURE.

Hi Section 22 and Team

Hope you had a relaxing holiday season and that the new year is treating you well so far.

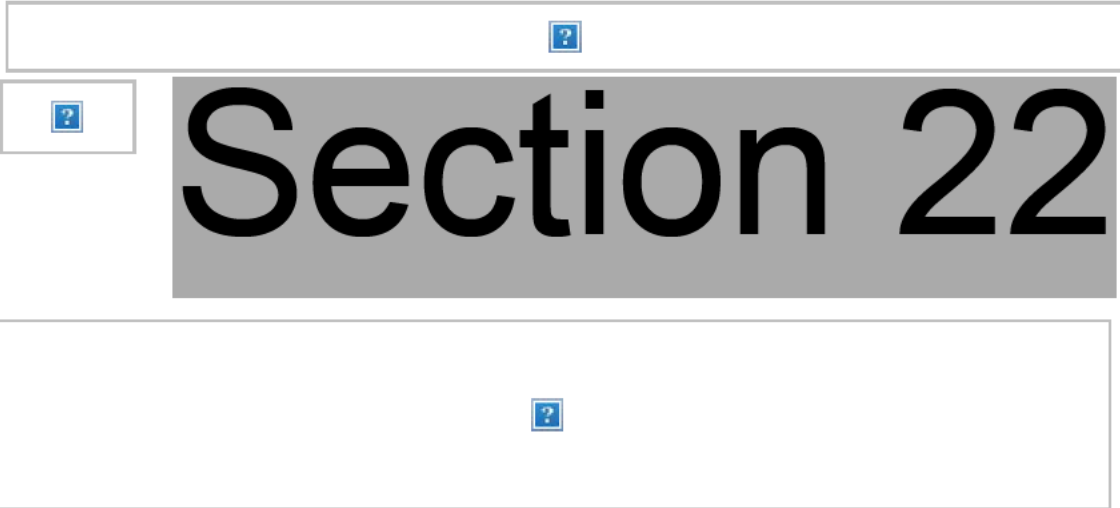
Thanks again for sharing your feedback on the AI assurance framework at our post-pilot interview last month. I'm writing to follow up on the post-assessment survey – could you please let us know when you aim to send us your completed survey? I understand you initially planned to complete 2 assessments using the draft framework but in the end were only able to complete one of these, and that you were waiting on approval to share the survey. Grateful for any updates on this as we continue to analyse the pilot findings to inform further refinement of the framework.

Look forward to hearing from you – and to continuing to work together on AI matters

in 2025.

Best wishes

Section 22



From: Section 22

Sent: Friday, 22 November 2024 2:45 PM

To: Section 22


Cc: AI Technical Standards <aistandards@dtg.gov.au>

Subject: RE: AI Assurance Framework Pilot - approaching the finish line! [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Section 22

Thanks for checking in. We've just signed off our first assessment and will be finalising a second next week. We have scheduled time in with our Deputy Commissioner the week starting 3 December to approve sharing of the surveys, so a meeting in the following week would best allow us to give you confidence our responses are finalised.

Cheers,


Section 22

ATO. Working for all Australians

From: Section 22

Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 7:12 PM

To: Section 22

Cc: AI Technical Standards <aistandards@dtg.gov.au>

Subject: AI Assurance Framework Pilot - approaching the finish line! [SEC=OFFICIAL]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: STAY SMART, STAY SECURE.

OFFICIAL

Hi ATO Team

Hope this email finds you well. I'm writing to ask how you are going with the Pilot AI Assurance Framework, noting we have just over a week to go before the pilot ends?

Have you had a chance to complete some AI use case impact assessments using the framework and complete any post-assessment surveys? We would be grateful for a rough indication of how many assessments you commenced/completed and how many surveys you expect to send. Also, please send through any completed surveys whenever they're ready – the sooner we can start collating and analysing these the better.

We will be in touch early next week to schedule post-pilot feedback workshops – we are currently looking to schedule these on Thursday 28 and Friday 29 November, and Tuesday 3 December. Please let us know if you have a preference for or against any of those days, or if another day would suit you better.

We are keen to hear directly from staff that are developing and deploying AI and who have been involved piloting draft framework's impact assessment process. Once you receive the workshop invite, please forward it on to those who may not be on our direct contact list.

We understand that agencies have different circumstances and that, for example, some agencies may not:

- have many or any AI use cases currently in train to assess
- have any use cases that meet the threshold for a 'covered use case' as defined in the draft framework
- have use cases that meet the medium-to-high risk threshold that would trigger a 'full assessment', beyond section 3 of the draft framework.

If this is the case for you, please let us know – we would be happy to discuss ways

you can still provide valuable feedback on the draft framework and guidance.

I am on leave Thursday-Friday, but back on deck Monday – happy to discuss further then.

Best wishes

Section 22



Section 22



OFFICIAL

From: AI Technical Standards

Sent: Tuesday, 22 October 2024 8:20 PM

To: AI Technical Standards <aistandards@dtg.gov.au>

Cc: Section 22

Subject: AI Assurance Framework Pilot update

Dear AI Assurance Framework Pilot participants

Thank you once again for engaging in the AI Assurance Framework Pilot – and a warm welcome to colleagues from several new agencies that have joined the pilot in the last couple of weeks! I'm writing to share some updates.

Pilot timeframe extended

First of all, we would like to advise that we are extending the pilot end date by one month, to the end of November. This is in response to requests from some participants, and to allow some more agencies to join the pilot.

Under this revised timeline, we aim to schedule post-pilot feedback sessions with you in the last week of November and first week of December. We will aim to send out some placeholders in the next week or so.

If you would prefer to wrap up your agency's involvement at the end of October as originally planned, please reply to this email to let us know. In those cases, we are happy to schedule feedback sessions in the first week of November.

Draft assurance framework published

You may have seen already that the DTA published the draft AI assurance framework and guidance documents yesterday.

Landing page introducing both documents:

<https://www.digital.gov.au/policy/ai/pilot-ai-assurance-framework>

Direct link to the draft assurance framework:

<https://www.digital.gov.au/policy/ai/pilot-ai-assurance-framework/introduction>

Direct link to the draft guidance:

<https://www.digital.gov.au/policy/ai/pilot-ai-assurance-framework/guidance>

We also published a blog post about the draft framework: [DTA pilots new AI assurance framework](#)

The blog post mentions that we intend to publish the list of agencies participating in the pilot at a later date. Please let us know if your agency has a compelling reason to be excluded from a public list of pilot agencies.

I just want to confirm that there are **no substantive changes** to the framework's AI impact assessment process or the guidance material in this web version compared to the Word documents you are accessing on GovTEAMS.

We published the web version primarily for transparency purposes, for a wider audience – it's not intended as a substitute for the Word version, which remains the best way to document your impact assessment as part of the pilot.

You may notice some superficial changes on this web version of the framework. The main differences to note are the document titles, updated to align with Australian Government style requirements. On the web version, these are now called the:

- *Pilot Australian Government AI assurance framework*
- *Guidance for the pilot Australian Government AI assurance framework*

Other updates were limited to changing formatting and layout to comply with web

accessibility requirements, fixing links to some external resources, and adding some introductory/disclaimer text to make the draft, pilot status of the documents clearer for a wider audience.

Midpoint feedback

Thank you to everyone who attended the midpoint workshops a few weeks ago. Our team really appreciated hearing early insights on the AI impact assessment process from such a diverse range of agencies. We were also pleased that participants found it useful to share their experiences with other agencies.

Based on this, we are planning to hold the post-pilot feedback sessions in a similar format, with 2-3 agencies per session. Please let us know if you would prefer an individual session, or if you have any other feedback on the midpoint workshop format.

Just to share some of the common themes and questions that we noted from the midpoint workshops:

- Questions about how the framework interacts with the AI life cycle – e.g. ‘early experimentation’.
- Should the framework take a more prescriptive approach, or give more flexibility for tailoring to different agency contexts?
- Is additional guidance needed for certain sections – such as the threshold assessment, and risk assessment/mitigation more broadly?
- How best to engage with senior executives, legal counsel and other non-technical staff in the assurance process, and prepare them to confidently sign off on their sections of the assessment.
- How much guidance should the framework provide on aligning the assurance framework with agencies’ existing governance processes?

Impact assessments

We understand some pilot agencies have not had a chance to complete the framework’s impact assessment process from start to finish. Maybe your AI use case is still in the early experimentation stage of the lifecycle, and therefore not *technically* subject to the framework – or maybe it was rated as low risk at the threshold assessment and therefore doesn’t *require* a full assessment.

We would still encourage anyone in these situations to try out the full assessment process and share your feedback. You could consider how an assessment might change if your AI use case evolves (e.g. if it tips over into the medium risk threshold, or proceeds to later lifecycle stages), or consider a hypothetical use case relevant to your agency’s operations.

If you have any completed post-assessment surveys, please send them through – no need to wait until the end of the pilot to send these.

As we've mentioned before, we understand if you would prefer not to share impact assessments for sensitive AI use cases, and we only require you to send your post-assessment surveys. However, if you are comfortable sharing any non-sensitive use case assessments with the DTA, we would be happy to see them, as they may help us better understand how the framework works in different contexts.

Finally, if you are no longer working on the AI assurance framework pilot, please reply to let us know to remove you from the contact list.

I think that's enough of an update for now. Please do not hesitate to contact our team with any feedback and questions: aistandards@dtg.gov.au.

Best wishes

Section 22

