

28 November 2025

Senator the Hon Tim Ayres  
Minister for Industry and Innovation  
Minister for Science

Dear Minister Ayres

## RESPONSE TO MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS: STATEMENT OF INTENT

Thank you for your Ministerial Statement of Expectations. I appreciate your acknowledgement of IP Australia's valuable role contributing to the Government's priorities. This statement of intent sets out the way in which I, as the Accountable Authority of IP Australia, will fulfil these expectations.

Our Strategic Corporate Plan outlines our purpose to enable Australians to benefit from great ideas by providing a world leading IP system. It reflects the Government's broader economic and productivity agenda and recognises Australia's IP rights system is essential to fostering a secure environment for innovation, trade and investment.

As set out in your Statement of Expectations IP Australia will:

- Provide expert advice to the Government on the development of registered IP rights policy and legislation.
- Deliver evidence-based improvements to keep Australia's registered IP rights system fit for purpose and ensure confidence in our regulatory activities.
- Engage internationally to support Australia's key role within the global IP system.
- Use data and new digital technologies to improve program delivery.

### Advancing the Government's priorities

We are committed to ensuring Australia's IP rights system drives innovation and delivers greater benefits to the Australian economy. The strategic objectives and key activities in our Strategic Corporate Plan support the Government's priorities relating to productivity, trade, investment, job creation and economic growth.

### ***Supporting the commercialisation of more Australian ideas***

As steward of Australia's registered IP rights system, we will continue to nurture a strong innovation ecosystem that supports Australian businesses and industries to thrive.

We will use our data capability and IP expertise with analytics and economic insight to help researchers, businesses and government policymakers to support industries to be robust, resilient and internationally competitive.

We will engage proactively with Government objectives for research and development, including the Strategic Examination of Research and Development. We will continue to build and leverage partnerships with government, industry partners and universities to promote and maximise the impact of the IP system, and identify opportunities to improve the commercialisation of IP from Australian research institutions.

We will provide targeted education and outreach to businesses, researchers, and entrepreneurs, with emphasis on small and medium enterprises and under-represented groups, to better explain the IP system and how it can add value to business. Showcasing the importance of IP and providing Australians with the tools they require to make informed decisions will further increase their trust and confidence in Australia's IP System.

Strengthening enforcement support is key to increasing the value of IP rights and building trust in the IP system. In 2025, we launched a pilot tool, IP First Response, experimenting with options to help users understand if their IP rights have been infringed and explore possible next steps. This is an example of how IP Australia is trialling new ways to support small and medium enterprises with cost-effective and accessible ways to learn more about their enforcement options.

### ***Elevating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems***

We are committed to providing an IP system that helps promote and protect the knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We are looking at system changes and how to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to empower people to protect their Indigenous Knowledge, educate businesses looking to work with Indigenous Knowledge, and promote the benefits of Indigenous Knowledge protection. We will ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and perspectives are central to these activities.

### ***Regulatory reform***

We will continue to focus on reducing unnecessary or inefficient regulation imposed on individuals, business, and community organisations. We are committed to improving regulator performance as demonstrated by the *Intellectual Property Laws Amendment (Regulator Performance) Act 2023* which came into effect on 17 November 2023. The changes in the Act respond to stakeholder feedback, increase procedural fairness, and streamline our regulation of the IP system. Our continuing commitments to regulation reform are articulated in my

[letter](#) to the Minister for Finance and the Treasurer which includes a package of measures to streamline and simplify IP regulation. I will keep you and the Department of Industry, Science and Resources informed of progress towards our planned immediate and longer-term reforms set out in the letter.

IP Australia will continue to invest in our technology to ensure that it is modern, easy to use, efficient and effective. Our online services platform has significantly reduced red tape and made accessing the IP system simpler. Data will continue to be central to how we work and what we do. We will use our research program, data analytics and stakeholder engagement to inform appropriate, timely, efficient and proportionate changes to the IP system. We are increasingly using data and smart analytics to innovate and find efficiencies in how we conduct our work to support reforms and reflect evolving business needs.

### **Driving the organisation's performance**

IP Australia will continue to follow the Government's principles of regulator best practice. Our Strategic Corporate Plan performance measures are mapped to the principles and outline our service standards for our key activities, which include:

- Regulating the Trans-Tasman IP attorney regime for Australian and New Zealand patent attorneys, and Australian trade mark attorneys.
- Administering the *Designs Act 2003*, *Patents Act 1990*, *Plant Breeder's Rights Act 1994*, *Trade Marks Act 1995*, and *Olympic Insignia Protection Act 1987*.

We continually monitor our operating environment to ensure regulatory approaches keep pace with changes in technology, industry practices, and community expectations, with a particular emphasis on quality, productivity and efficiency.

As a cost recovered agency, we set our fees for services under IP rights legislation according to the Australian Government Charging Framework and Cost Recovery Guidelines, and in consultation with other governance agencies. We will continue to consider the impact on our customers and take a disciplined approach to ensure our financial sustainability and the delivery of our planned activities.

We will continue to explore the potential of emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, to support high-quality, efficient service delivery and improve customer satisfaction. We are also preparing to publicly consult on the broader implications of AI on the IP system.

We are committed to maintaining public confidence in our delivery of high-quality IP rights. We will identify opportunities for improvement through internal and independent reviews. We will deliver evidence-based improvements to IP right systems and legislation, including the protection and awareness of Indigenous Knowledge. Through our certified Quality Management System, we identify and address customer feedback and make improvements

that build the quality of our services, and the capability and efficiency of our people and processes.

We support informed, risk-based decision making by empowering staff to engage with risk appropriately. We actively pursue a positive risk culture where staff at all levels understand and manage risk as part of their day-to-day activities.

We recognise our data is a valuable national asset. We will continue to develop our organisational capability to support effective data governance and use, including the digital and data literacy of our staff. We will ensure our data is available to inform policy development, national security, and drive economic growth and job creation through Australian innovation. We will harness our data and economic research to allow us to develop robust evidence and support reforms to the IP system to respond to changing technology and business needs.

### **Working across government**

We collaborate with the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, and other Commonwealth agencies, to align our activities with the Government's priorities, provide accurate and timely IP policy advice and deliver on the priorities set out in this statement. We also work closely with the World Intellectual Property Organization, and other IP entities from around the world to influence the global IP ecosystem for the benefit of Australians.

We will continue to work with your department to provide our expertise to inform changes to policy and legislation relevant to IP. This includes engagement with the cross-government IP Policy Group.

I appreciate your support for IP Australia's work and the registered IP rights system. We will engage with your office and department in advance of major announcements or events to consider your involvement and will notify them of any that may attract media or stakeholder attention.

I look forward to continuing to work with your office and to support you as the responsible Minister on intellectual property matters.

Your Statement of Expectations and my response through this Statement of Intent will be published on the IP Australia and Department of Finance websites.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Schwager', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Schwager  
Director General  
IP Australia