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Mr David Tune  
Independent Reviewer  
c/o Tune Review Secretariat  
National Archives of Australia#  
Queen Victoria Terrace  
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29 June 2019

## **SUBMISSION TO THE TUNE REVIEW**

Dear Mr Tune

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Review into the National Archives of Australia (NAA).

I am currently a Fellow with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, and prior to that was Assistant Director-General of the National Archives of Australia from 2004-2018, managing a range of Archives functions, in particular its public facing and government services, policies and ICT. As a result of my 14 very enjoyable years as an SES Officer at the Archives I have an extensive understanding of its role and functions, the Archives Act, and the pressures and issues it has faced, and still faces.

I am also the author of the ASPI International Cyber Policy Centre research report [\*Identity of a Nation – protecting the digital evidence of who we are\*](#) the result of a 12 month secondment to ASPI as a Visiting Fellow in 2018. It is from both of these experiences working within and outside of the Archives that I make my submission.

### **Recognition and funding for digital role**

I refer you to my ASPI report mentioned above ( <https://www.aspi.org.au/report/identity-nation>) and ask that it be considered as part of the review. It provides a unique and important perspective on the role of the Archives in the digital age, along with several key recommendations. I believe the protection of our valuable national archival digital holdings- the digital evidence of who we are as a nation - is a national security issue, and should be treated as such and funded accordingly.

All of my recommendations should be considered as part of the review, with the following specifically related to the National Archives:

- Australia's national identity and high-value data and information, the destruction or corruption of which would have a serious impact on Australia's sovereignty, should be recognised as part of our critical infrastructure framework.
- National security agencies should engage with the National Archives of Australia to undertake a risk assessment of the archives' digital national identity assets and jointly develop proposals to defend them from future attack.

- The National Archives of Australia should use its legislated powers to prescribe what government information and data constitutes national identity assets and set mandatory management and governance standards to ensure, protect and maintain their long-term integrity and reliability of those assets.
- A new funding model for memory institutions, including the National Archives of Australia, should be explored by Australian governments to help protect digital national identity material.
- All Australian governments (federal and state) should better coordinate their information, data and related cyber policy agencies and strengthen information governance as the overarching requirement, incorporating all elements of information management, security, privacy and data management.

The Archives responsibility for both paper and digital holdings – essentially two Archives but with funding for only one - has never been recognised by the Australian Government, and it should be. Despite this, the Archives has done well to improve its digital services, but with its overall funding steadily declining in real terms in recent years resulting in service and staff cuts, it has now come to the end of its ability to do less with less, particularly as demand for access and client expectations are increasing.

The Archives has been unsuccessful in attracting recent modernisation funding from Government and has been unsuccessful in all its budget bids over the past 14 years to address its digital role. This needs to be addressed urgently, particularly in the current environment of increased cyber attacks and the need to have a safe, trusted and authoritative custodian of the Australian Government's, and the Australian people's, valuable archival digital assets.

### **National Archives Building**

While the Australian War Memorial recently received \$500m for a new exhibition building, the Archives doesn't have a purpose-built Archives building, let alone an exhibition building. Instead it is housed in an historic office block with inadequate public and exhibition space, no auditorium, and inadequate education and digital research facilities. I recommend similar government funding be allocated to the NAA for a new building in the Parliamentary Triangle for it to be able to fulfil its role as one of Australia's leading public institutions.

Thankyou again for the opportunity to provide input to the review.

Regards

Anne Lyons

Identify of a Nation – protecting the digital evidence of who we are  
<https://www.aspi.org.au/report/identity-nation>