



New South Wales

# Digital Restart Fund Bill 2019

## Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

## Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to establish the Digital Restart Fund for the purpose of providing funding for digital and information and communications technology initiatives across the government sector.

## Outline of provisions

### Part 1 Preliminary

**Clause 1** sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

**Clause 2** provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent to the proposed Act.

**Clause 3** defines certain words and expressions used in the proposed Act.

**Clause 4** sets out the object of the proposed Act.

### Part 2 Digital Restart Fund

**Clause 5** establishes the Digital Restart Fund (the *Fund*) in the Special Deposits Account.

**Clause 6** provides that the purpose of the Fund is to support digital and information and communications technology initiatives across the government sector, and for that purpose, to fund projects that—

- (a) develop and implement digital and information and communications technology products or services that, for the purpose of improving the delivery of services by government agencies and related interactions—
  - (i) identify the actions required to be taken by an individual (or on the individual's behalf) in respect of significant life events, and
  - (ii) record related interactions between the individual (or on the individual's behalf) and government agencies or other bodies or persons connected with the delivery of services by a government agency, and
  - (iii) identify and address impediments to the delivery of related services by government agencies, or
- (b) develop and implement digital and information and communications technology products or services that are capable of being used by multiple government agencies, or
- (c) optimise existing technologies, applications, computer systems or processes used by government agencies to improve functionality and operational life, or
- (d) provide persons employed in or by a government agency with education and training relating to digital and information and communications technology.

**Clause 7** provides that the Minister is to control and manage the Fund.

**Clause 8** provides for money to be paid into the Fund. This includes all money appropriated by Parliament, or advanced by the Treasurer, for the purposes of payment into the Fund (whether appropriated before or after the commencement of the proposed Act), all money appropriated by Parliament to the Treasurer for the general purposes of the Government and directed by the Treasurer to be paid into the Fund and the proceeds of the investment of money in the Fund.

**Clause 9** enables money to be paid from the Fund to fund all or part of the cost of a project that promotes the purpose of the Fund and is approved by the Minister on the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Customer Service, for administrative expenses of the Fund or as directed or authorised to be paid from the Fund under the proposed Act or any other Act or law.

**Clause 10** sets out the manner in which money in the Fund may be invested.

**Clause 11** authorises the Minister to obtain advice in relation to the exercise of the Minister's functions under the proposed Act.

### **Part 3 Miscellaneous**

**Clause 12** enables the Minister to delegate functions under the proposed Act to the head of, or a person employed in, a Public Service agency.

**Clause 13** requires the Minister to produce an annual report containing details of payments into and from the Fund and to make the report publicly available.

**Clause 14** provides that the proposed Act will bind the Crown.

**Clause 15** enables the Governor to make regulations for the purposes of the proposed Act.

**Clause 16** provides for the review of the proposed Act in 5 years.