The Honourable Karen Andrews
Minister for Industry, Science and Technology
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

BLOCKCHAIN SOLUTIONS TO ACCELERATE RECOVERY AND ENHANCE RESILIENCE

Dear Minister,

The COVID-19 pandemic presents both a health emergency and economic crisis. Government and business resources are now focused on the immediate management of the situation. Equally important is the planning underway to accelerate the recovery and create greater resilience against future shocks.

This is not a business as usual challenge. New and innovative thinking along with the smart deployment of technological and organisational solutions is needed.

Blockchain technology can help drive the economic and health recovery and underpin more resilient systems in the future.

Priority can be given to solutions that will swiftly assist the management of the medical emergency and mitigate the economic impacts.

Accelerating Recovery

An immediate opportunity would be to support accurate and accessible data on COVID-19 hospital admissions including ICU admissions leading to more accurate modelling and greater public confidence.

Trusted digital credentials can assist now in managing safety, distribution and entitlement issues. Among other things, a blockchain credential could:

- verify that a medical professional or essential services worker is entitled to enter a certain area;
- confirm that a benefit recipient (eg old age pensioner) is entitled to shop at a certain time or purchase certain products;
- easily demonstrating that a stood down flight attendant has recent first aid credentials that mean they could be quickly redeployed to assist with health triage;
- verify that an individual has been tested for COVID and found to be negative or recovered as at a certain date.

Another key opportunity as we see a shift to much more extensive working from home is the ability to verify and share delegated authorities that we exercise on behalf of our employers. Our current systems are not well designed for virtual working and lack interoperability.

Building Resilience

As we look beyond the immediate crisis and recovery, it is increasingly clear that systems and processes across society will be changed forever by the COVID19 phenomenon.

Government and business leaders now tasked with planning for the post-COVID world should evaluate and begin investment in potential blockchain solutions that will make our institutions more robust in the face a future shock including:

- Track and Trace solutions that allow linking of identity data in a public health or other emergency while remaining privacy compliant in day to day life;
- More resilient supply chains achieved through transparency and smart contract based governance tools;
- Virtual working through ubiquitous and trusted identity credentials including authorities and permissions;
- Enhanced virtual learning through 'learning wallets';
- Targeting of welfare and other social benefits through conditional payments;
- Enhanced labour mobility through trusted vocational credentials
- Improved investment returns as citizens rebuild damaged superannuation funds through more efficient funds management tools.

Taking Action – A Task for the National Blockchain Roadmap Steering Committee?

The National Blockchain Roadmap published earlier this year by your Department has already identified all of these examples – and more – as transformative solutions for industry and government.

Healthcare opportunities that will assist with the immediate need to 'flatten the curve' can be brought forward and followed with solutions to help mitigate the economic consequences.

As we prepare for recovery and future resilience it is now clear that business as usual is over. The COVID-19 emergency means that transformation opportunities that were already essential to the future of Australia's economy are now needed urgently.

Blockchain Australia and Australia's blockchain community stand ready to assist in identifying and prioritising the opportunities that will have the greatest impact in ensuring that Australia recovers as swiftly as possible from the impact of COVID-19 and creates more resilient systems in the future.

The National Blockchain Roadmap Steering Committee could be refocused to co-ordinate this task.

Blockchain solutions are already being proposed and developed to assist. The National Blockchain Roadmap Steering Committee can ensure that these are prioritised and co-ordinated rather than emerging piecemeal.

Australia has no shortage of blockchain talent and well-advanced solutions ready for deployment. Blockchain Australia along with all of the co-signatories below – and no doubt many more – are willing and

able to work with your Department to accelerate economic and health recovery efforts and ensure that Australia emerges from the current crisis stronger than ever.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Executive
Blockchain Australia

Co-Signatories

Name	Title	Organization
Rob Allen	Managing Director	Nodl
Niki Ariyasinghe	Country Head – Australia	R3
Michael Bacina	Partner	Piper Alderman
Tim Bass	Co-Founder & CEO	Block8 Technologies
John Bassilios	Special Counsel	Hall & Wilcox
Adriana Belotti	Convenor	Blockchain Professionals Community
Nathan Burns	Co-Founder & CEO	Blockchain Collective
Nick Byrne	Director	Type Human
Nicholas Christie	Director	Kova Tax
Lucas Cullen	Co-Founder & CEO	Bitcoin Brisbane Pty Ltd
Rick Davis	Founder & CEO	Digital Risk Advisors
Ross Dewar	Director	Ryft.tech
Katrina Donaghy	Co-Founder & CEO	Civic Ledger
Lachlan Feeney	CEO	Labrys
Michael Go	CEO	Sydney Stock Exchange
Tim Goggin	CEO	Horizon State
Matthew Hawken	Consultant	DWF Australia
Andy Hutchings-Broso	Founder	BC Gateways
David Inderias	Co-Founder & CEO	Fresh Supply Co Pty Ltd
Sheree Ip	Operating Partner – Oceania & Europe	Calton Hill
David Jackson	Group Managing Director	The S-Core Group
Ralph Kalsi	Director	Blockchain Australia Consulting
Leanne Kemp	Founder & CEO	Everledger
Harold Lucero	CEO	Discidium
John Macy	Founder & MD	Competitive Edge technology Pty Ltd
Christian Moore	CEO	Future Currency Group
Rob Morris	CEO	Prismatik
Kaia Myers-Stewart	Vice-President, Product	5th Dimension Security
Cindy Nicholson	CEO	Braintree
John Phillips	Partner	SSI
Joni Pirovich	Special Counsel	Mills Oakley
Adam Poulton	Founder & CEO	Get Paid in Bitcoin
Giuseppe Porcelli	CEO	Lakeba Group
Geoff Rooney	Partner – Financial Services – Audit & Assurance	BDO
Jane Thomason	CEO	Fintech Worldwide
Taylor Tran	Managing Director	Innovation Melbourne
Leigh Travers	CEO	DigitalX
Cameron Wall	CEO	RainCheck
Chris Were	Founder	Verida