

## **ABS submission to Treasury on e-invoicing consultation paper**

- The ABS is very supportive of initiatives to increase the take-up of e-Invoicing by businesses in Australia. The ongoing savings to business and improvements to national productivity provide a strong business case to accelerate e-Invoicing for commerce.
- The ABS does not have a position on the three options presented in the paper for accelerating the take-up of e-Invoicing by the private sector.
- On page 9 of the paper, there is the following statement:

"The ATO (the Peppol Authority) and other Australian government agencies do not have access to the e-Invoices exchanged between businesses, meaning they cannot view the e-Invoices' contents and details."

There is currently a strong drive within government to reduce the burden on businesses, through the government's deregulation agenda. With that in mind, the ABS imposes considerable survey burden on businesses each year in order to measure the transactions between industries as part of the compilation of National Accounts and other business statistics. As a data source, e-invoicing presents a unique opportunity to assist the ABS to access high quality transactional data in real time, while significantly reducing the survey burden imposed upon businesses. The ABS is a trusted institution that serves a statistical function rather than a regulatory function. It is therefore proposed that the ABS be provided with access to e-Invoicing data "for statistical purposes only" and that data collected by the ABS would be accessed under the Census and Statistics Act, which provides the necessary assurances and protections over privacy and data security.

- The ABS has no further comments.