STATEMENT OF INTENT

TREASURER’S DIRECTIONS

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Section ICT1.2: Governance - ICT Policies and Standards

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| ICT policies and standards enable and promote the efficient, effective and consistent operation of ICT services across government.  |

##### MAIN FEATURES

Section 38 of the *Financial Management Act* requires every Accountable Officer and every employee of an agency to comply with the Treasurer’s Directions.

**Policies and Standards**

NTG ICT policies and standards prescribe consistent requirements for ICT functions and elements and set out obligations that each agency must comply with to manage the delivery of ICT systems and services.

**Approval**

The Accountable Officer of the Department of Corporate and Information Services approves ICT policies and standards for use across the NT Government.

**Compliance**

Each agency must comply with NT Government ICT policies and standards unless the agency has an approved exemption.

**Exemptions**

An exemption to an agency complying with a NTG ICT policy or standard may be granted by the Accountable Officer of the Department of Corporate and Information Services, on the advice of the ICT Governance Board, where circumstances warrant.

For authoritative instruction and guidance referenceshould be made to related Treasurer's Directions and associated commentary.

**CONTENTS**

Overview – ICT Policies and Standards

Approval ICT1.2.1

Compliance ICT1.2.2

Exemptions ICT1.2.3

Appendix A ICT Policy Review and Approval Process Flowchart

**AUTHORITIES**

*Financial Management Act (NT)*

*NT Government ICT Governance Framework*

Administrative Arrangements Order(NT)

ABBREVIATIONS

| DCIS | Department of Corporate and Information Services |
| --- | --- |
| ICT  | Information and Communications Technology  |
| IGB | ICT Governance Board |
| ILG | ICT Leadership Group |
| LIG | Location Intelligence Group |
| NT | Northern Territory |
| NTG | Northern Territory Government |

overview – NTG ICT POLICIES and standards

NTG ICT policies and standards specify the requirements that apply across government to ensure consistency and suitability of government ICT services and the effective management and delivery of agency ICT projects.

NTG ICT policies and standards reflect legislative and *NT Government ICT Governance Framework* requirements, government policy, strategic directions and business directives. Consideration is also given to broader ICT matters, including technical parameters, emerging technology, ICT industry practices and public sector jurisdiction approaches.

NTG ICT policies set out the NTG’s position on an ICT function or element. ICT standards set the minimum or baseline requirements and technical parameters that apply to ICT policies. The standards assist each agency to implement ICT policies and understand requirements to provide effective controls within the NTG ICT environment. ICT policies and standards cover the NTG ICT environment and ICT resource usage, including security, architecture, infrastructure, business applications and end user services.

ICT policies and standards are developed and maintained through a process of initiation, development, maintenance, review and approval. Refer to Appendix A for process flowchart.

**APPROVAL**

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| ICT1.2.1 | **NTG ICT policies and standards are approved by the Accountable Officer of the Department of Corporate and Information Services.** |

1. Under the Administrative Arrangements Order responsibility for ICT policy and governance is assigned to DCIS.
2. NTG ICT policies and standards are developed with input from agencies and stakeholders through consultation and technical reference groups.
3. The following criteria are taken into consideration in developing and approving all ICT policies and standards:
* Legislative requirements
* NTG operations
* Risk mitigation
* Security
* Safeguarding information
* Consistency
* Compatibility
* Collaboration and interoperability
* Cost effectiveness
* Longevity
* Innovation.
1. The LIG develops or reviews specialised ICT policies and standards in relation to geo-spatial systems and location intelligence information. Specialised spatial policy requires endorsement from the ILG before submission to the IGB.
2. The ILG is responsible for reviewing and endorsing all draft ICT policies and standards for submission to the IGB. The ILG’s role is to ensure draft ICT policies and standards are technically sound, aligned to existing ICT policies and government policy directions, contemporary and can be implemented by agencies.
3. The IGB has a final oversight role for endorsed ICT policies and standards to ensure broader strategic alignment prior to approval.

COMPLIANCE

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| ICT1.2.2 | **Each agency must comply with NTG ICT policies and standards unless an exemption has been approved in accordance with Treasurer’s Direction ICT1.2.3.**  |

1. Each agency should adopt best practice principles when implementing NTG ICT policies, standards and guidelines and ensure internal practices align with all-of-government policies and standards.
2. An agency may develop and implement their own internal ICT policies and standards to enhance or expand on the NTG policies and standards, provided they remain consistent with NTG ICT policies and standards.
3. Agencies can obtain advice and information from DCIS on the application of NTG ICT policies and standards within their agency.
4. Agencies may request a review of a NTG ICT policy or standard, through a request to the ILG or to DCIS at ictgovernance.ntg@nt.gov.au.

EXEMPTIONS

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| ICT1.2.3 | **The Accountable Officer of DCIS may grant an agency an exemption to an NTG ICT policy or standard on the advice of the ICT Governance Board.**  |

1. If abiding by a NTG ICT policy or standard will have a negative impact on an agency in regard to business, finance, security or public policy, the agency can request an exemption.
2. The agency is to lodge a written request for exemption at ictgovernance.ntg@nt.gov.au outlining the reasons and impacts and proposing an alternative ICT policy or standard for the agency.
3. The ILG will consider the technical issues and impacts arising from granting an ICT policy exemption and the suitability of the agency’s proposed alternative ICT policy and advise the IGB.
4. Impacts on other agencies, the NTG ICT environment, contractual and legislative requirements, ICT security and lack of consistency will be carefully evaluated in considering exemption requests.

**APPENDIX A**

**ICT Policy Review and Approval Process Flowchart**

