

The objective of this module is to articulate principles to guide the substantive design of effective tech policy.

Developed in consultation with public servants, industry, and civil society, the principles offer a benchmark of best practice – a baseline against which good tech policy design can be measured. We thank the Australian Government's Digital Technology Taskforce and the Tech Council of Australia for supporting this module and the consultations. The purpose statement draws on concepts articulated in Re/defining Leadership in the 21st Century, a white paper developed by the ANU School of Cybernetics and the Menzies Foundation.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Shape a future that maximises the potential of people, technology and the planet.

PRINCIPLES

01

Designing tech policy is a journey, not a destination

Just like technology, good tech policy is agile and constantly evolving.

02

An outcome well defined, is a problem half solved

A clear articulation of the desired policy outcome is at the heart of all good tech policy design.

03

Good tech policy is responsive and timely, it creates clarity and certainty

Effective communication is critical

04

Consultation is a theme, not a step

When designing tech policy, consult often, transparently, and widely

05

Be responsive, foster feedback loops

Tech policy can be contentious consensus is not always possible, but demonstrate all voices have been heard and considered

06

Regulation should not be the default, consider all available options

Choose the most proportionate and fit-for-purpose solution (remember: bad ideas do exist).

07

Context matters, good tech policy is not designed in isolation

Consider how proposed solutions will impact and interact with adjacent systems and jurisdictions (domestically and internationally).

08

Context matters, good tech policy is not designed in isolation

The end of the tech policy design process is just the beginning; implementation, evaluation, and review are vital next steps