

# TECH POLICY DESIGN FUND

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

Version 9 updated February 2026

### TPDi's Purpose

To shape technology for the benefit of humanity.

### Objective of the Fund

The Purpose of the Tech Policy Design Fund (the Fund) is to support TPDi core activities aligned with our Purpose, including to:

- foster mature public debate on tech policy issues in Australia and the Indo-Pacific
- conduct world-leading research to inform the design of best practice tech policy
- grow the art of tech policy as a professional discipline through innovative education
- support Australian leadership in international tech policy debates
- build capacity to design effective tech policy, particularly in Australia and our region
- convene constructive multi stakeholder communities (government, industry, civil society, and academia) to bridge perspectives and codesign solutions.

**The Outcome:** fit-for-purpose tech policy frameworks that reward innovation, drive economic growth, strengthen democracy, enhance national security, and shape an environment (online and offline) in which individuals and communities can thrive.

### Activities supported by the Fund

The Fund will be used to support the following TPDi activities:

1. Sustainably support TPDi research, education, and engagement activities that align with TPDi's Purpose and the Object of the Fund, as well as the efficient administration of the same.
2. Deliver two Tech Policy Spotlights annually, each focused on a priority tech policy issue and comprising, for example:
  - a. workshop or roundtable;
  - b. policy paper; and a
  - c. launch event.
3. Release monthly **Tech Mirror Podcasts** on a tech policy topic aligned with TPDi's Purpose and the Object of the Fund.

4. Support **diverse participation** in TPDi research, education, and engagement activities, including funding travel for civil society organisations and voices less heard to participate in TPDi activities.
5. Establish **scholarships** to foster participation in TPDi's education program by underrepresented groups, including women, indigenous, culturally and linguistically diverse, and neurodivergent people.

## Conditions of the Fund

### The Fund only accepts contributions from entities that commit to:

- Support TPDi's Purpose.
- Endorse the Object of the Fund.
- Understand that contributions to the Fund do not equate to payment for specific services but rather support for TPDi activities in pursuit of TPDi's Purpose and the Fund's Object.
- Acknowledge that TPDi's priorities, products, and positions are not determined by the interests and views of Sponsors.
- Respect and promote TPDi's independence and the independence of all TPDi outputs.
- Commit to sustaining TPDi's reputation as a credible, independent, evidence-based, non-partisan research organisation.
- Agree that all outputs related to the Fund will be published under a Creative Commons Licence (CC BY-NC-ND).

This licence enables reusers to copy and distribute the material in any medium or format in unadapted form only, for non-commercial purposes only, and only so long as attribution is given to the creator.

- Agree that all Sponsors to the Fund will be publicly and transparently disclosed.

## Administrative Details

1. TPDi will accept Sponsors only where the Sponsor agrees to the Conditions for the Fund, as set out above.
2. Where the Fund is oversubscribed, TPDi may prioritise Sponsors with a primary presence in Australia.
3. TPDi seeks to maintain diversity in the Fund's funding base, including contributions from industry, government, and philanthropy, provided this does not conflict with clause 2.
4. TPDi may prioritise sustaining or multi-year contributions where appropriate, provided this does not conflict with clause 2.
5. Sponsors may join the Fund at any time.
6. Contributions are made on an annual basis and rates may be varied from year to year.