



Australian Government

Attorney-General's Department

AUSTRALIA'S THIRD OPEN GOVERNMENT NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

CO-CREATION PROCESS

July 2023

Background

Consistent with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) [co-creation minimum standards](#), Australia's multi-stakeholder forum, the Open Government Forum (Forum) has agreed on a co-creation process to develop Australia's Third National Action Plan (NAP3). The process sets out how the commitments under the NAP3 will be collaboratively designed between government, civil society and other key stakeholders.

Co-creation as an important phase of the NAP3 development

Co-creation will form a key part of developing Australia's Open Government NAP3. This process will take a deliberative approach as set out in the [Australian Public Service Framework for Engagement and Participation](#). Deliberation gives participants a meaningful way to work through issues together, learn from one another and gain a greater understanding of various perspectives. Participants will also be given the chance to weigh up different stakeholder values and perspectives. Ideally, all participants in the process will arrive at shared recommendations by consensus, which are then provided to the Government for final decision. Australia's co-creation process for NAP3 is set out below.

Deliberation through Forum Working Groups, with optional expert involvement.

Overview

This model engages the Forum as the key consultation group of selected representatives of government and civil society with opportunities for engagement from outside experts and targeted public consultation.

Process

Phase 1: Outreach

- The outreach phase will provide an opportunity for both the Forum and public to shape draft concept documents which will form the basis of NAP3 commitments. The concept documents group ideas put forward at the first Forum meeting into areas of focus under policy headings. These documents will continue to be developed over the course of the design of NAP3 with input from the Forum and outside stakeholders.
- Prior to beginning the outreach phase, it will be important for the Forum to establish minimum targets for public consultation.
- The Attorney-General's Department will also conduct an analysis of the stakeholder and community groups that are not represented in the Forum to ensure that where possible, targeted consultation with these members of the community is undertaken.
- The Attorney-General's Department will provide an opportunity for the public to provide feedback relevant to the draft concepts, including the key outcomes to be achieved that community members would support, which the working groups can take into consideration as they deliberate on and work through potential commitments in the next phase.
- As part of the outreach phase, the Attorney-General's Department will also consult within government to solicit whole-of-government views on draft concepts.

Phase 2: Deliberation

Phase 2a: Deliberation and Drafting

- At a Forum meeting, working groups will be established with civil society and government members. These Working Groups will enable hands-on collaboration and engagement between Forum members to facilitate a deliberative process. Forum members will be able to volunteer for a particular working group to suit their specific areas of expertise and interest. Membership of Working Groups will be flexible to allow the addition of new expertise, this may include existing Forum members or additional expertise relevant to the Forum. For further information on the proposed structure of the Working Groups see **Attachment A**.
- Working Groups will meet together to deliberate on their concepts via videoconference and may also wish to seek public comment on particular aspects of their policy areas, for example seeking the views of individuals from regional centres, in consultation with the Attorney-General's Department.
- This will be followed by targeted public consultations on the draft commitments, including with expert groups to solicit feedback on draft commitments.
- As part of this process it will be important for the Forum to provide feedback on what commitments are being taken forward and why others are not being taken forward.
- Commitments will then be further refined in the Forum and draft NAP3 will be developed by the Forum with support from the Attorney-General's Department.

Phase 2b: Consultation on Draft Plan

- Relevant government portfolios are engaged where commitments relate to their portfolio. This will complement government engagement undertaken throughout the deliberation process.
- The draft NAP3 will be published on the [AGD Consultation Hub](#) for feedback from the public.
- NAP3 refined in line with public consultation and Forum feedback.

Phase 3: Approval

- NAP3 approved by Forum members.
- NAP3 submitted to OGP Support Unit for feedback prior to obtaining Government approval.
- Final version of NAP3 submitted to the OGP Global Secretariat to meet Australia's requirements under the OGP process.
- The OGP Independent Reporting Mechanism assessment process will commence through a review of the action plan, which will be delivered to the Forum within four months.