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NATIONAL CYBER STRATEGY A 'GAME CHANGER' FOR AUSTRALIA

The Cyber Security Cooperative Research Centre (CSCRC) says the release of *Australia's 2023-30 Cyber Security Strategy* is the vital next step to protect Australians in a dynamic and evolving cyber threat environment.

"The CSCRC welcomes the new national Cyber Security Strategy. This is a game changer for cyber security in Australia," said the Hon Kate Lundy, Chair of the CSCRC.

"Protecting Australia and its people is at the strategy's core. From the lounge room to the board room, the message is clear - cyber security matters. This forward-facing plan will help ensure Australia and Australians are well protected and more resilient now and into future."

CSCRC CEO Rachael Falk was one of three members of the Minister for Home Affairs and Cyber Security's Expert Advisory Board for the Strategy, alongside Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld AO DSC (Retd) and former Telstra CEO, Andrew Penn AO.

The Department of Home Affairs consulted and collaborated widely with all sectors throughout the process, including small to medium businesses (SMEs) and key research institutions. It received more than 330 written submissions over the development of the framework, consulting with more than 700 stakeholders.

Key features of the strategy include:

- Overall spend of \$586 million to boost the nation's cyber defences
- Development of six 'cyber shields' – including strong businesses and citizens; safe technology and world-class threat-sharing and blocking
- \$150 million dollars in support for critical infrastructure
- A 'Ransomware playbook' to provide guidance for SMEs against malicious attacks
- Plans to develop a single reporting portal to make it easier for businesses to report cyber incidents.

CSCRC Board Chair, Kate Lundy said the strategy highlights the value of organisations like the CSCRC, which works across industry to develop cyber security capability and capacity to help keep Australia safe.

"While we are focused on delivering on our mission, the CSCRC is working with government to explore options to transition the CSCRC to an independent cyber security research, law and policy institute once its funding concludes at the end of 2024." Ms Lundy said.

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The CSCRC develops cyber security capability and capacity to keep Australia safe. We do this by developing innovative, real-world research and cultivating outstanding talent to solve pressing cyber security challenges.