



Australian Government

Department of Innovation  
Industry, Science and Research

Mr Nick Tate  
Chair, AAF Project Steering Committee  
Director, ITS and AusCERT  
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Dear Mr Tate

**Progress in implementing the Australian Access Federation (AAF)**

I write to share with you some concerns that we have with the progress in implementing the Australian Access Federation (AAF) Project.

The Chair of the Australian eResearch Infrastructure Council (AeRIC) recently wrote to me, as the delegate of the Systemic Infrastructure Initiative (SII), conveying AeRIC concerns while acknowledging that considerable work has been undertaken to address the technical issues surrounding the AAF.

I share their concerns and request that you consider the need for the AAF Project to:

- develop as a matter of urgency a set of overarching governance and policies for the AAF;
- establish a set of legal agreements for the Federation, including membership rules and a statement of the AAF objects;
- prepare a draft business plan and full costings for the AAF and subscription costs for its members; and
- consider appointing a leader for the Federation as soon as practical.

I have asked Peter Nicholson to convey to the AAF Project Steering Committee the concerns outlined above at its meeting on 2 October 2008.

I look forward to a positive outcome from the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Anne-Marie Lansdown  
General Manager  
Research Infrastructure Branch

25 September 2008