FOREPOST
IT AUDIT & ASSURANCE

OUR CAPABILITIES

Auditors who get technology. Technologists who get audit. Experts who get government.



Senior-led IT internal audit and assurance for Australian Government

November 2026

Our core team

Auditors who get technology.

The team in our proposal is the team delivering your audit. Our founding directors bring IT audit, governance and risk, CIO-level leadership and program assurance expertise, accountable from planning through to Audit Committee.

Michelle Pallas

Founding Director, IT Audit and Assurance

IT internal audit and assurance · 16+ years in and with government

Michelle is a Forepost co-founder with more than 20 years' experience, including more than 16 years in and with government. A former Principal Director in technology risk, she has led internal audit in government and delivered internal audits nationally as a government contractor.

- Former Big 4 Principal Director, national government sector IT audit lead
- Led a Federal Government internal audit function and Audit Committee Secretariat
- Managed organisational change for a major government technology transformation

FOCUS AREAS

- IT internal audit
- IT controls and cyber
- External assurance readiness

Alicia Lewis

Founding Director, Governance and Risk

Governance, risk and security · senior executive · GAICD

Alicia is a Forepost co-founder with more than 15 years in the Australian Government, most recently at senior executive level, working across governance, compliance, risk and security. She helps clients get clear, practical advice they can act on, and holds an Executive Master of Public Administration.

- Led audit, risk, legal and governance functions as A/g Assistant Secretary
- Managed corporate planning and performance reporting through the Audit Committee
- Advised on Commonwealth resource management, financial delegations and compliance

FOCUS AREAS

- Governance and risk
- Delivery governance
- Executive reporting

Our subject matter experts

Technologists who get audit.

Behind our senior IT audit team are technical subject matter experts who have designed, built and run government technology. They give our IT audits specialist depth across the CIO's six priorities, so we test what really matters.

TECHNICAL REACH-BACK · MAPPED TO THE SIX CIO PRIORITIES

James Lawson

GOVERN · SECURE · EVOLVE

Founding Director and CEO · former Federal Government CIO

James is Forepost's CEO, with more than 25 years in Australian Government ICT, and advises on technology strategy across government. A former Chief Information Officer who rose from developer to executive, he led teams that delivered around 98% of project milestones on time and on budget and secured about $90 million in transformation investment.

- Took a Federal Government department to Essential Eight/Essentials ML2
- Authored a regulator's enterprise cyber strategy and roadmap
- MBA · ANZSOG Towards Strategic Leadership

RELEVANT IT AUDIT TOPICS

- Essential Eight/Essentials maturity
- Cyber culture
- Benefits management

General information only. Not an offer or advice.
Liability limited to the extent permitted by law.

Geoff Burke

GOVERN · DELIVER · EVOLVE

Founding Director, Program and Project Assurance · 25+ years in ICT

Geoff is a Forepost co-founder with more than 25 years in government and private sector ICT in Australia and the UK, leading cloud migration, infrastructure, identity and Essential Eight/Essentials uplift programs. He is often brought in when delivery confidence has weakened, providing calm leadership and a clear path through complex change.

- $4.2m Azure program delivered within 3% of budget
- Leading an agency's exit from two data centres
- PRINCE2 Practitioner · MSP · ITIL

RELEVANT IT AUDIT TOPICS

- Delivery confidence
- Cloud transition
- IT vendor and contract management

Kessia Miller

GOVERN · SECURE · EVOLVE

Cyber security governance, risk and assurance · ISO 27001 Lead Implementer

Kessia is a cyber security governance, risk and assurance specialist with more than four years in Australian Government cyber security. She has completed annual PSPF and Essential Eight/Essentials assessments for a Federal Government department, and brings hands-on depth in security risk assessment, control testing and certification readiness.

- Led cyber security risk assessments, audits and testing as Acting Director
- Supported national cyber incident response as Acting Chief of Staff
- Assessed Azure, legacy ICT and AI technologies against the ISM and PSPF

RELEVANT IT AUDIT TOPICS

- PSPF self-assessment
- Essential Eight/Essentials maturity
- Pre-go-live

Dylan Edwards

GOVERN · SECURE · DELIVER

Cyber Security Engineering and Governance

Dylan works across cyber governance and engineering at OFFICIAL and PROTECTED, from Statements of Applicability to SIEM detection logic. He brings hands-on depth to IT audits of PSPF compliance, the Essential Eight/Essentials, security logging and security tooling.

- Led two Sentinel SIEM migrations in Federal Government agencies
- Took an agency's Azure environment to IATO at PROTECTED
- Wrote a department's logging and audit plan to ISM and PSPF

RELEVANT IT AUDIT TOPICS

- PSPF self-assessment
- Essential Eight/Essentials maturity
- IT vendor and contract management

Tim Hodge

SECURE · SUSTAIN · EVOLVE

Cloud & Infrastructure Security Architect · CISSP · CCSP

As Chief Enterprise Architect at a Federal Government department, Tim set the architecture direction for more than 6,000 users and 280 sites. He brings configuration-level depth to IT audits of identity, Zero Trust, disaster recovery and cloud landing zones.

- Former department Chief Enterprise Architect (280 sites)
- Designed the department's Azure landing zone to PSPF and ISM
- Delivered agency network modernisation and Zero Trust

RELEVANT IT AUDIT TOPICS

- Identity and Access Management
- Zero Trust implementation
- Cloud transition

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Erin Harriott

GOVERN · SECURE · STEWARD

Cyber Threat Intelligence and security leader

Erin leads cyber intelligence and assurance at a Federal Government department, after four years managing physical and cyber threats to a Federal Government agency. She brings a threat-led view to IT audits of foreign interference, cyber culture and breach readiness.

- Leads cyber intelligence and assurance at a Federal Government department
- Built an agency taskforce intelligence team on major PII breaches
- Award-winning Human-centric Cyber Defence Program

RELEVANT IT AUDIT TOPICS

- Foreign ownership, control & influence
- Cyber culture
- Data governance

Andrew Pang

GOVERN · SUSTAIN · EVOLVE

Enterprise Architect · 24 years in the APS · TOGAF

Andrew established a Federal Government department's Enterprise Architecture Practice and led its digital strategy and first Zero Trust strategy. He brings architect-level depth to IT audits of technology governance, continuity and cloud transition.

- Established a department's Enterprise Architecture Practice
- Led the department's first Zero Trust strategy
- Delivered a university IAM strategy

RELEVANT IT AUDIT TOPICS

- Third-party risk management
- Business continuity management
- IT asset management

David Graham

SECURE · SUSTAIN · EVOLVE

Cloud Architect · 25+ years in ICT

David is Technical Lead for a Federal Government agency's Azure migration, and delivered one of the first PROTECTED Microsoft Clouds in the Federal Government at another agency. He brings hands-on depth to IT audits of cloud security, recovery and transition.

- Technical Lead for an agency Azure cloud migration
- Delivered one of the first PROTECTED Microsoft Clouds
- Drove a department's Essential Eight/Essentials ML2 uplift

RELEVANT IT AUDIT TOPICS

- Essential Eight/Essentials maturity
- IT disaster recovery
- Cloud transition

Nathan Cook

SECURE · DELIVER · EVOLVE

Senior Cloud Engineer · 20 years public sector

Nathan has spent 20 years designing public sector platforms, including Entra ID, Conditional Access and Zero Trust controls across five tenants for a Federal Government department. He brings design-level depth to IT audits of identity, cloud value for money and migrations.

- Entra ID and Zero Trust design for 6,000+ users
- Essential Eight/Essentials uplift for an agency
- Migrated 1,500+ file shares to Azure for a department

RELEVANT IT AUDIT TOPICS

- Zero Trust implementation
- Cloud transition
- Pre-go-live

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ASSOCIATES · GATEWAY REVIEWS AND READINESS ASSURANCE

Our Gateway review associates are former senior executives and experienced assurance reviewers who provide independent assurance at key decision points in major programs. Associate availability is confirmed for each opportunity.

John Trabinger

EVOLVE

Gateway reviewer since 2006 · former Head of the Gateway Review Unit

John has been an expert-level Gateway reviewer and evaluator since 2006, providing assurance for more than 150 digital transformation and infrastructure programs for government and not-for-profit organisations. A former Head of the Commonwealth Gateway Review Unit and departmental Chief Information Officer, he has also held senior roles with a global technology company.

RELEVANT IT AUDIT TOPICS

- Gateway reviews
- Gateway review readiness
- Delivery confidence

- 150+ Gateway reviews across Australia and New Zealand
- Former departmental Chief Information Officer
- Led major government delivery programs from inception to completion

Greg Field

EVOLVE

Assurance reviewer · former CIO and CFO · FCPA

Greg has served as a Deputy Secretary and First Assistant Secretary across numerous Federal Government SES roles, including Chief Information Officer, Chief Finance Officer and Head of Corporate Services. A Department of Finance Assurance Reviewer and NSW ICT Assurance Framework Expert Reviewer, he specialises in IT-enabled transformation, business cases and benefits realisation, backed by Big 4 partnership experience.

RELEVANT IT AUDIT TOPICS

- Gateway reviews
- Delivery confidence
- Benefits management

- Co-founder of the Federal Government CIO Forum
- Current and former board and Audit Committee Chair, Deputy Chair and member
- FCPA · FIML · MAICD

Rob Stefanic

EVOLVE

Former Secretary and CIO · 12 years as a Chief Executive

A former departmental Secretary and Chief Executive, Rob specialises in organisational reform, governance, major capital and security programs, and technology-enabled service delivery. He brings 12 years as a Chief Executive, including leading a Federal Government department of more than 1,100 staff with a $300 million budget, and served as the first Chief Information Officer of a state parliamentary department.

RELEVANT IT AUDIT TOPICS

- Gateway reviews
- Gateway review readiness
- Delivery confidence

- Led whole-of-agency reform across 1,100+ staff and a $300 million budget
- Delivered major capital works and electronic security upgrades
- Executive MPA (ANZSOG) · LLB (Hons) · BCom

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FOREPOST
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GET IN TOUCH

Let’s talk.

Email us
General enquiries

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Call us
Speak directly with our senior team

P 0417 618 352

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

About this document
This document has been prepared by Forepost Pty Ltd to provide general information about our IT internal audit and assurance capability. It is not an offer, tender response or contract, and any engagement will be governed by a separately agreed scope and terms.

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