

Submission to the Productivity Commission report 'Harnessing data digital technology'.

My name is David Gould and I am concerned about the risks posed by artificial intelligence.

Artificial intelligence, as the interim report notes, 'could transform the global economy and speed up productivity growth'. However, such a powerful technology also presents threats to the global economy.

- AI may be used to assist the hacking of government and business computer systems.
- AI is on the verge of being capable enough to assist amateurs create dangerous biological and chemical threats.
- AI systems may significantly increase unemployment in certain sectors—and indeed, if AI companies are to be believed, rapidly replace human workers across a broad range of fields.
- AI may provide companies in control of it the ability to subvert democracy by controlling messaging across the internet.

These are four major dangers facing any government that wishes to rapidly diffuse AI throughout the economy. In the face of these threats, limited regulation is a non-starter. Australia urgently needs to put in place legislation and regulation that enforces strict limits on how this technology is used.

And these risks are minor compared to the one that top AI scientists have been raising for the past decade or more: the risk that artificial intelligence, once it becomes more intelligent than humans, may pose an existential threat to humanity.

The Productivity Commission makes no mention of this threat in its report, even though the three most cited AI researchers—Geoffrey Hinton, Yoshua Bengio and Ilya Sutskever—all assert that this deadly threat is real and potentially imminent. Ilya Sutskever resigned as the lead safety researcher at OpenAI to start a company called 'Safe Superintelligence' because he is convinced that there is high risk that companies like OpenAI will soon build *unsafe* superintelligence.

The Productivity Commission makes no mention of this threat in its report, even though the leaders of the three most advanced AI labs—Sam Altman (Open AI), Dario Amodei (Anthropic) and Demis Hassabis (Google Deepmind)—signed the CAIS risk statement stating that 'Mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war.'

The Productivity Commission makes no mention of this threat in its report, even though Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google, states that the risk is 'pretty high' and Elon Musk, CEO of XAI, has said that there is a 20% chance that AI will destroy humanity.

The fact that the Productivity Commission is ignoring this level of risk and not providing any of this terrifying context to its discussion on the potential benefits of AI is a dereliction of its duty.

The government direction implementing these inquiries states that: 'The final reports for these inquiries should include advice on reform implementation, including implementation feasibility and risks, and be provided to Government within 12 months of receipt of this request.'

I trust that the final report of this inquiry will be upfront about artificial intelligence's existential threat to humanity. Those at the forefront of this field are sounding the alarm. If the Productivity Commission fails to mention this, they are deliberately misleading the Australian government and, more importantly, the Australian people. Accurately represent the potential benefits; accurately represent the potential risks. That is all that I ask.

Sincerely,

David Gould

father
teacher

14/09/2025

Latham, ACT, 2615

[Reasoning through arguments against taking AI safety seriously - Yoshua Bengio](#)

['50-50 chance' that AI outsmarts humanity, Geoffrey Hinton says](#)

[Safe Superintelligence Inc.](#)

[Statement on AI Risk](#)

[Google CEO claims the probability of AI causing existential doom is "pretty high" — but he's banking on humanity to rally against the imminent catastrophe | Windows Central](#)

[Elon Musk makes frightening AI p\(doom\) apocalypse prediction](#)