



Australian Government

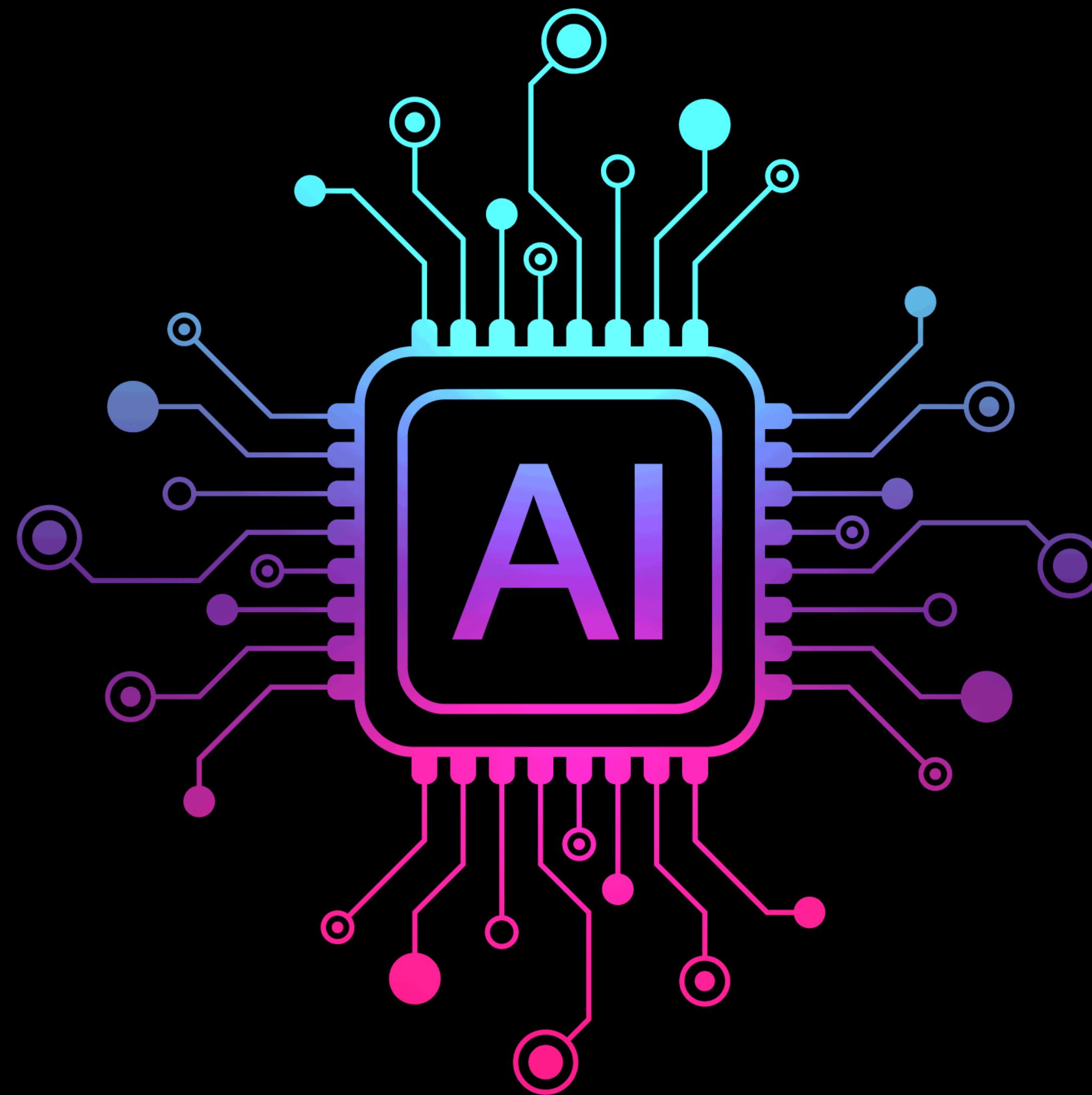
IP Australia

Automated decision-making and artificial intelligence governance journey

WILD 2025 meeting

Chris Rathborne

Chief Information Digital Officer



Why does IP Australia use automated decision-making and artificial intelligence

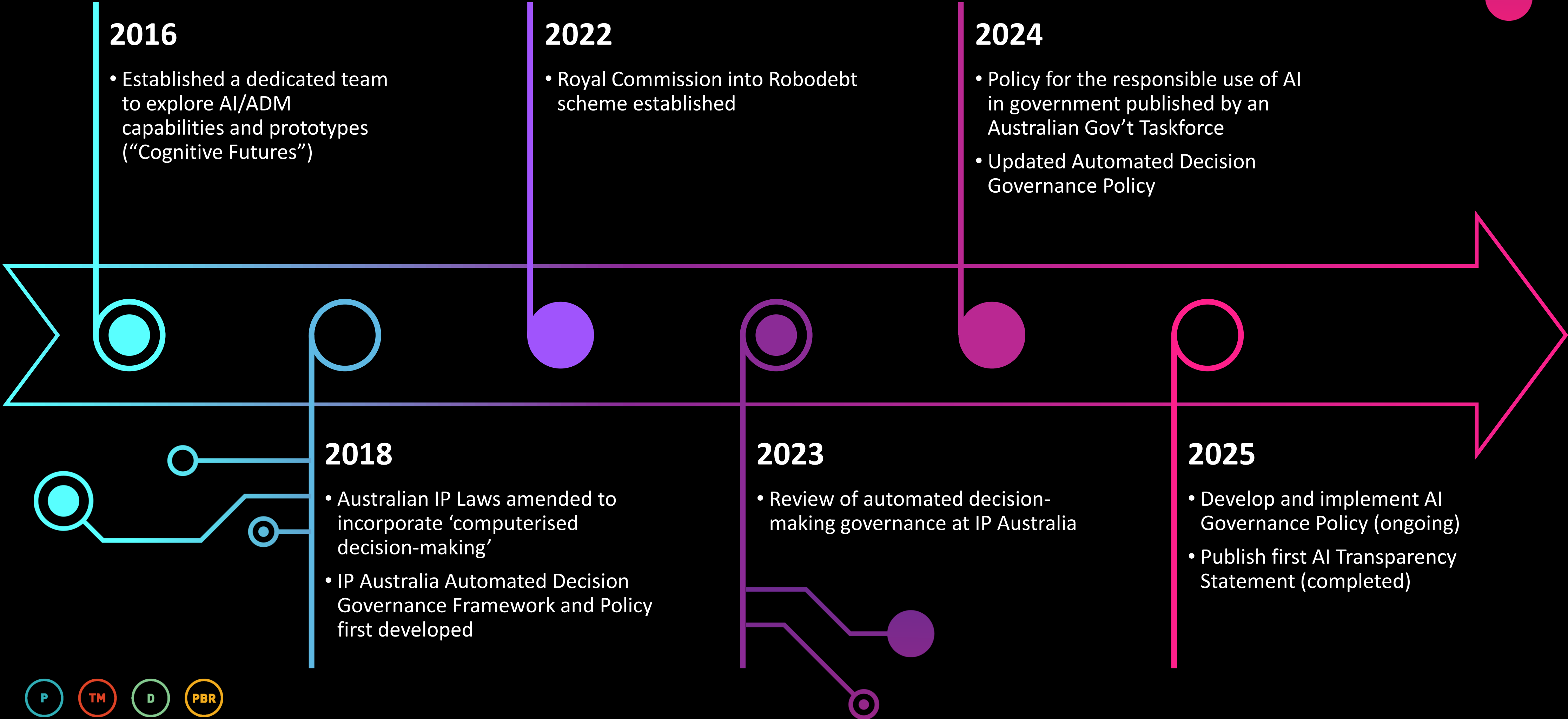
Enabling Australians to benefit from great ideas by providing a world-leading IP system

We use AI/ADM to:

- foster innovation and adaptiveness in our stewardship of the IP rights system
- to improve the efficiency and accessibility of the IP rights system
- to deliver innovative digital and data-driven customer services and staff experiences.



IP Australia's AI/ADM governance journey



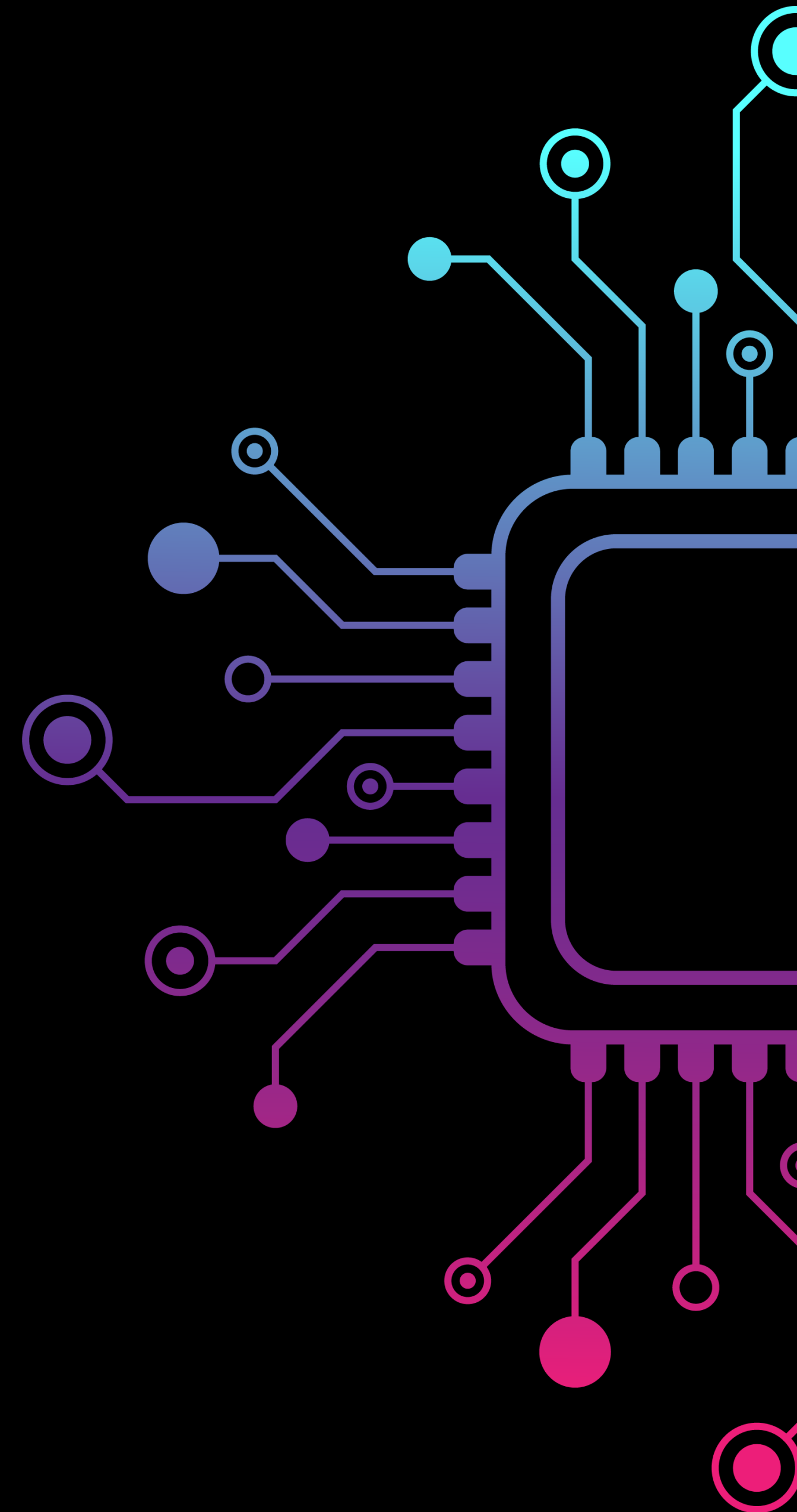
Review of AI/ADM at IP Australia (2023)

IP Australia was meeting its legal obligations under the IP rights legislation and Administrative Law

Governance of ADM systems at IP Australia was inconsistent due to the absence of a clear ADM definition

Current governance requirements were not proportionate to the level of risk associated with the ADM system

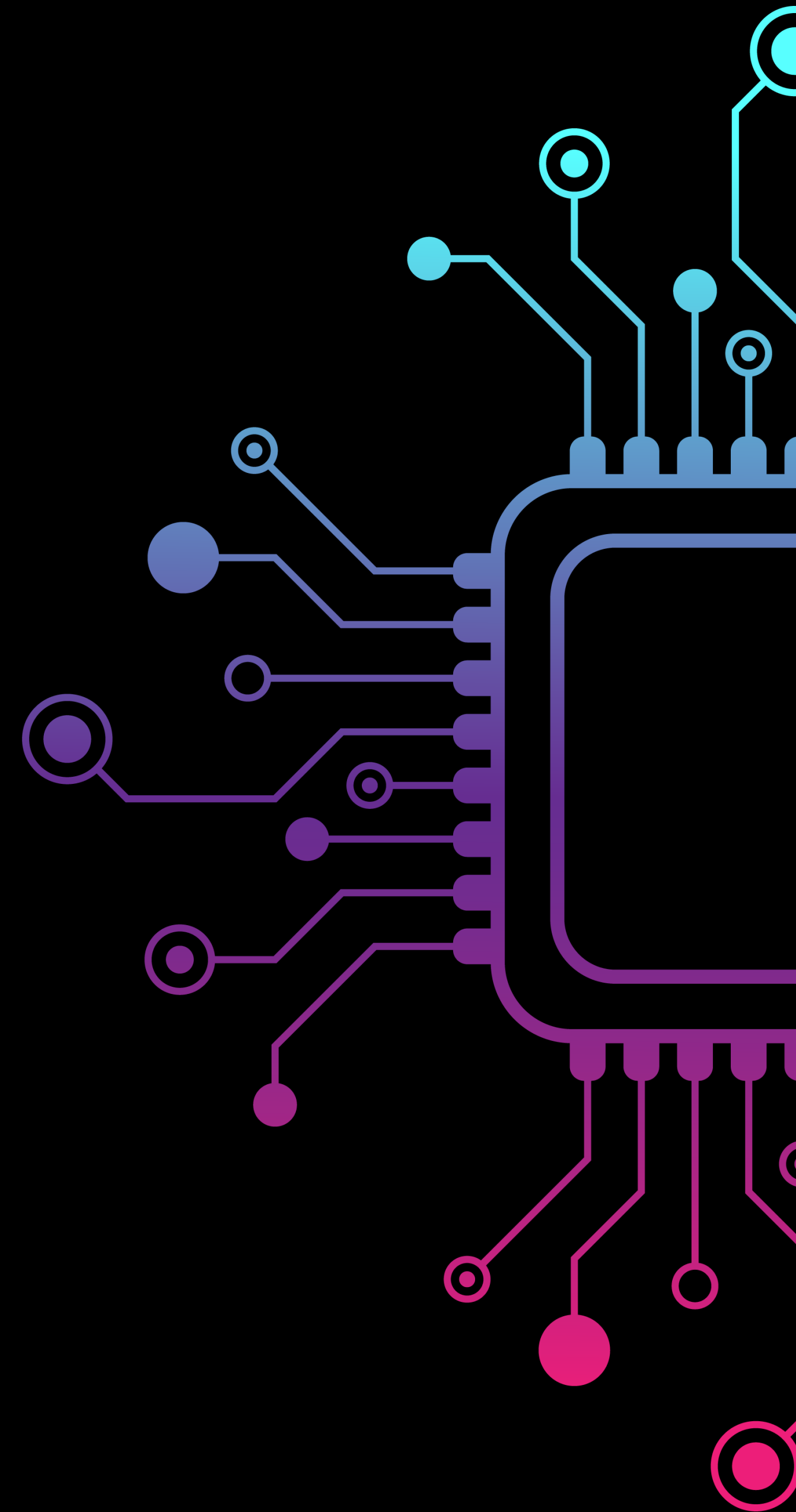
There is a global trend towards risk-based governance schemes to manage the implementation of ADM systems



Developing a new AI and ADM policy

To develop our new policy and governance structures we considered:

- whole of Australian government guidance and directions
- global best practices for governance mechanisms
- the legislative requirements that are specific to our agency.



Aims of IP Australia's new AI and ADM policies

Embrace the benefits

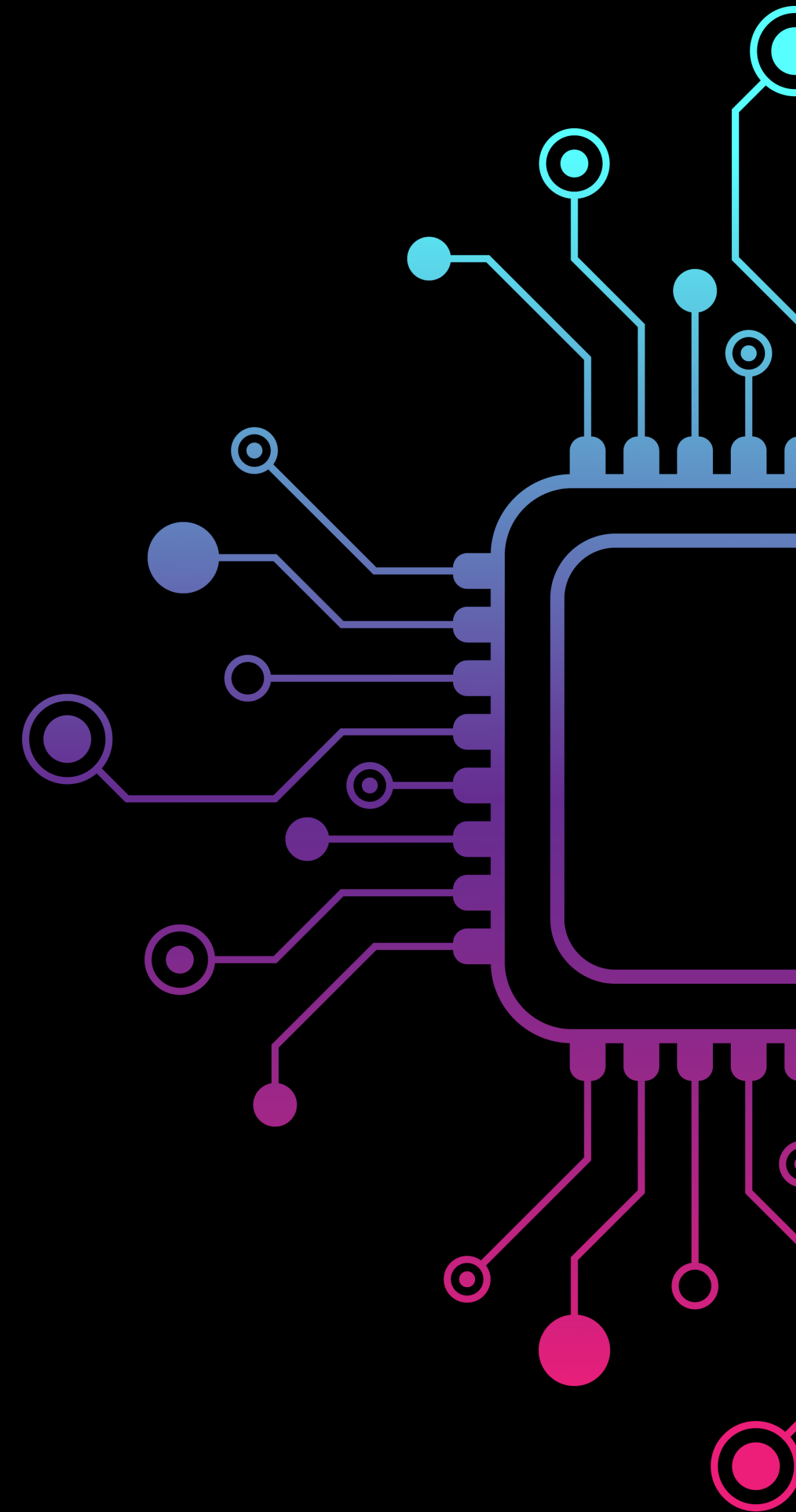
Enhance efficiency, accuracy, and consistency by leveraging AI/ADM technologies, while maintaining high standards of governance and accountability.

Strengthen public trust

Transparent and accountable governance processes to build public confidence, address concerns about bias, fairness, and privacy through clear communication about AI usage and data protection.

Adapt over time

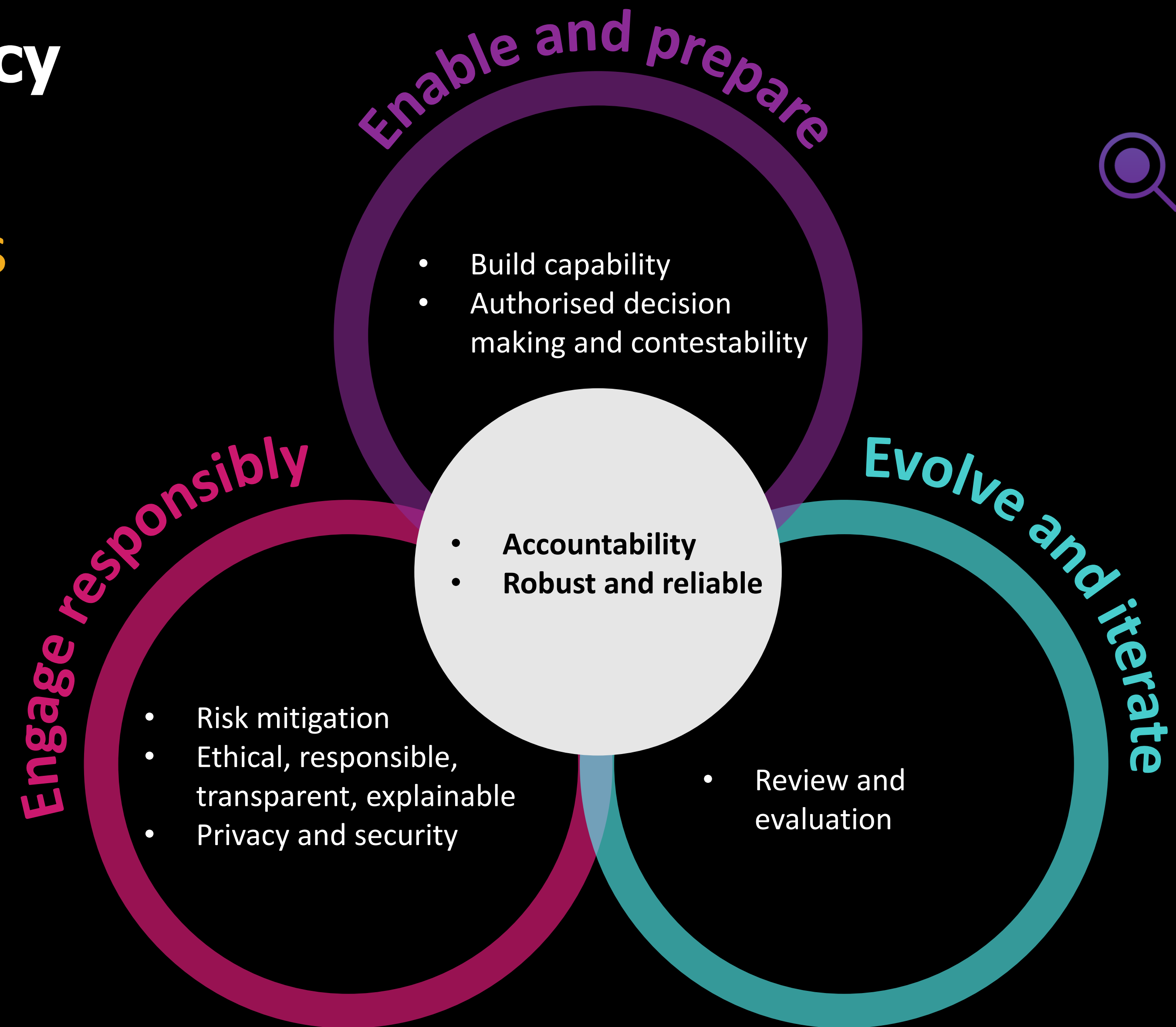
Designed to be flexible and adaptive, allowing continuous updates to governance frameworks to stay aligned with advancements in AI technology, regulatory requirements, and societal expectations.



ADM governance policy

3 core policy principles

Policy principles align with *Policy for the responsible use of AI in government*.



Policy implementation

AI/ADM-specific governance structures

AI Accountable Officer

Deputy Director General

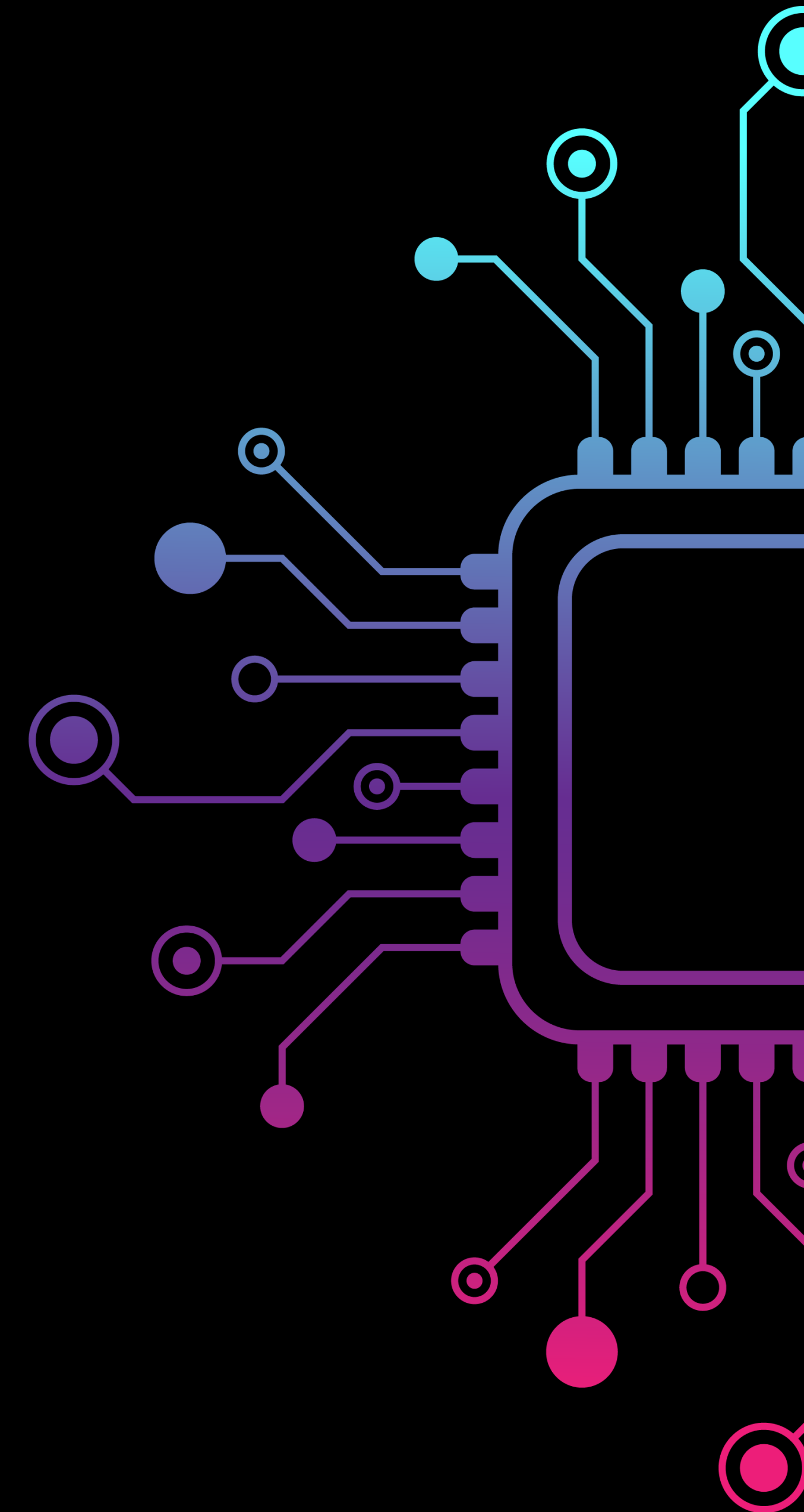
- Accountable for AI policy and governance processes.
- Contact point for whole-of-government AI coordination.
- Engage in whole-of-government AI forums and processes.

Interim AI Governance Committee

- Approves internal AI & ADM Governance Policies.
- Monitors implementation of internal and external policies.

AI/ADM Assessment Panel

- A panel of experts that review and endorse risk assessments and governance plans.
- Provide expert advice to the development, implementation and maintenance of AI and ADM use cases within IP Australia.



Policy implementation

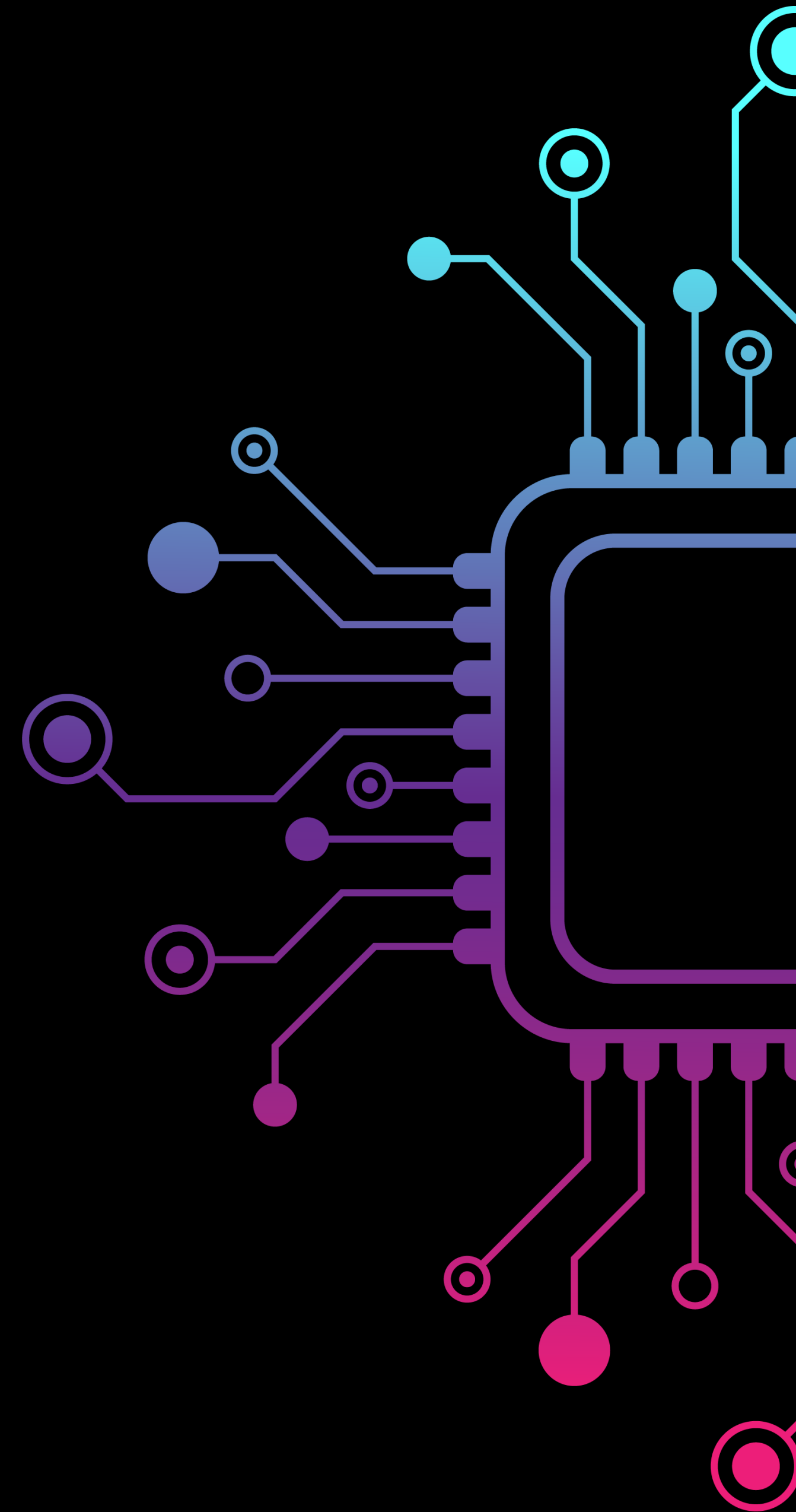
Leverage governance processes and assurance practices

Governance

- Data governance and data privacy
- Architectural governance
- Cyber security

Development assurance

- MLOps and DevOps practices (for managing the development, deployment, and maintenance of software and AI models)
- Digital Delivery and Assurance team (inhouse corporate testing)



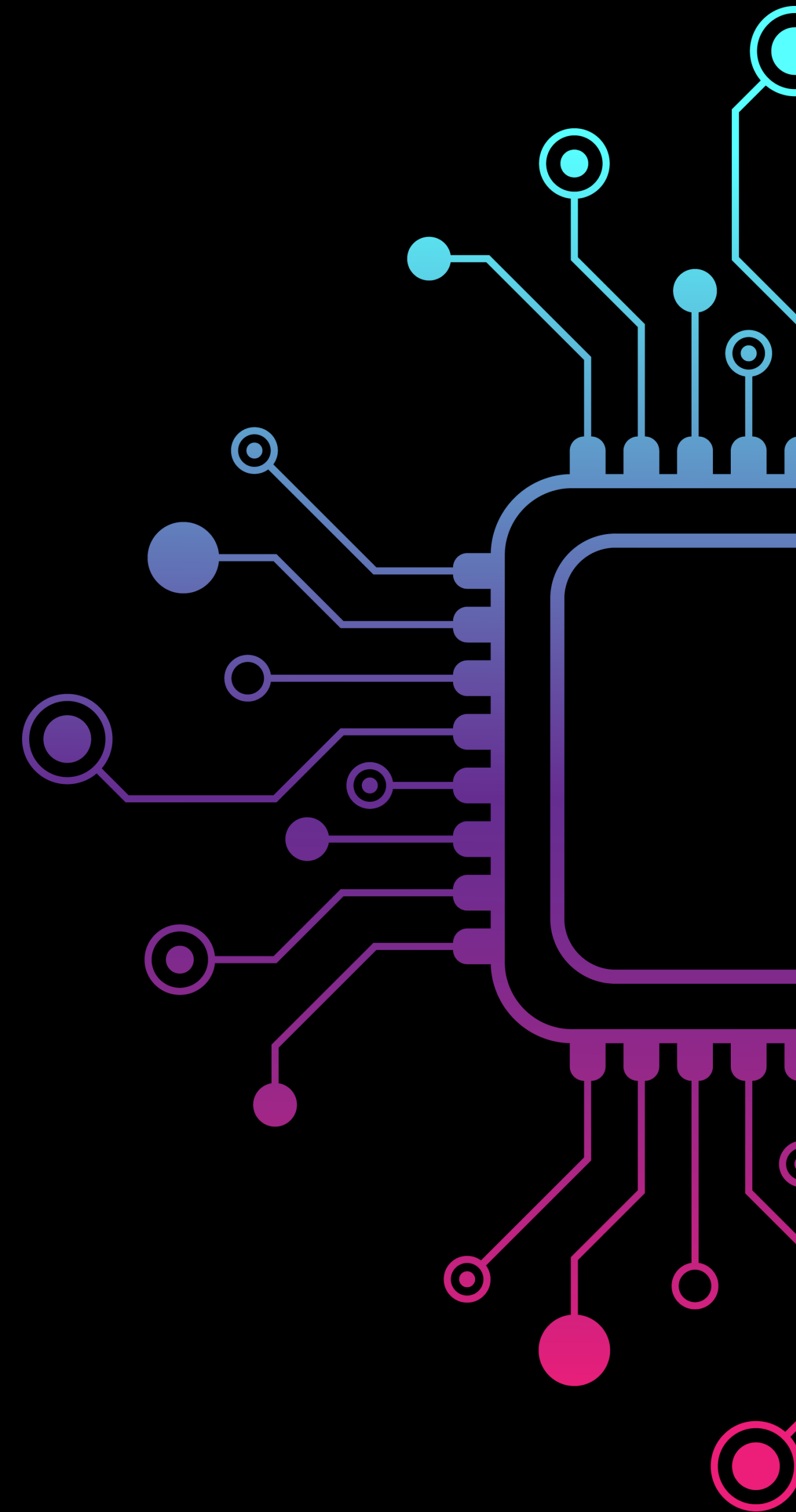
Policy implementation

Dedicated AI/ADM Risk Framework

- Defines a risk-proportionate management process to identify and mitigate risk.
- Uses tailored risk assessment templates that are AI/ADM-specific.
- Established an AI/ADM assessment panel to review completed risk assessments.

AI/ADM-specific record management system

- An agency wide AI/ADM Use Case inventory.
- A repository for AI/ADM model cards.

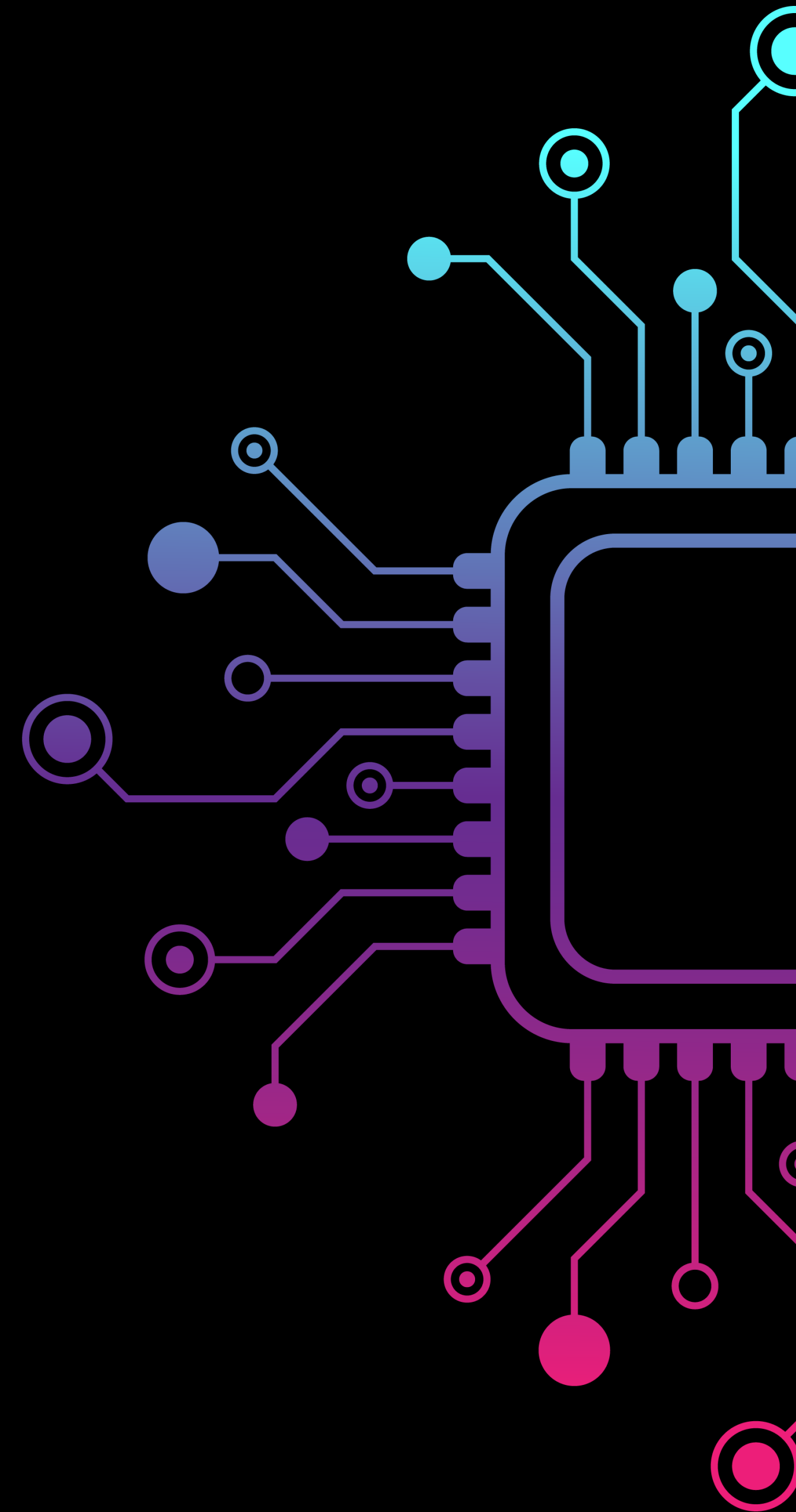


Policy implementation

Improved transparency: AI Transparency Statement

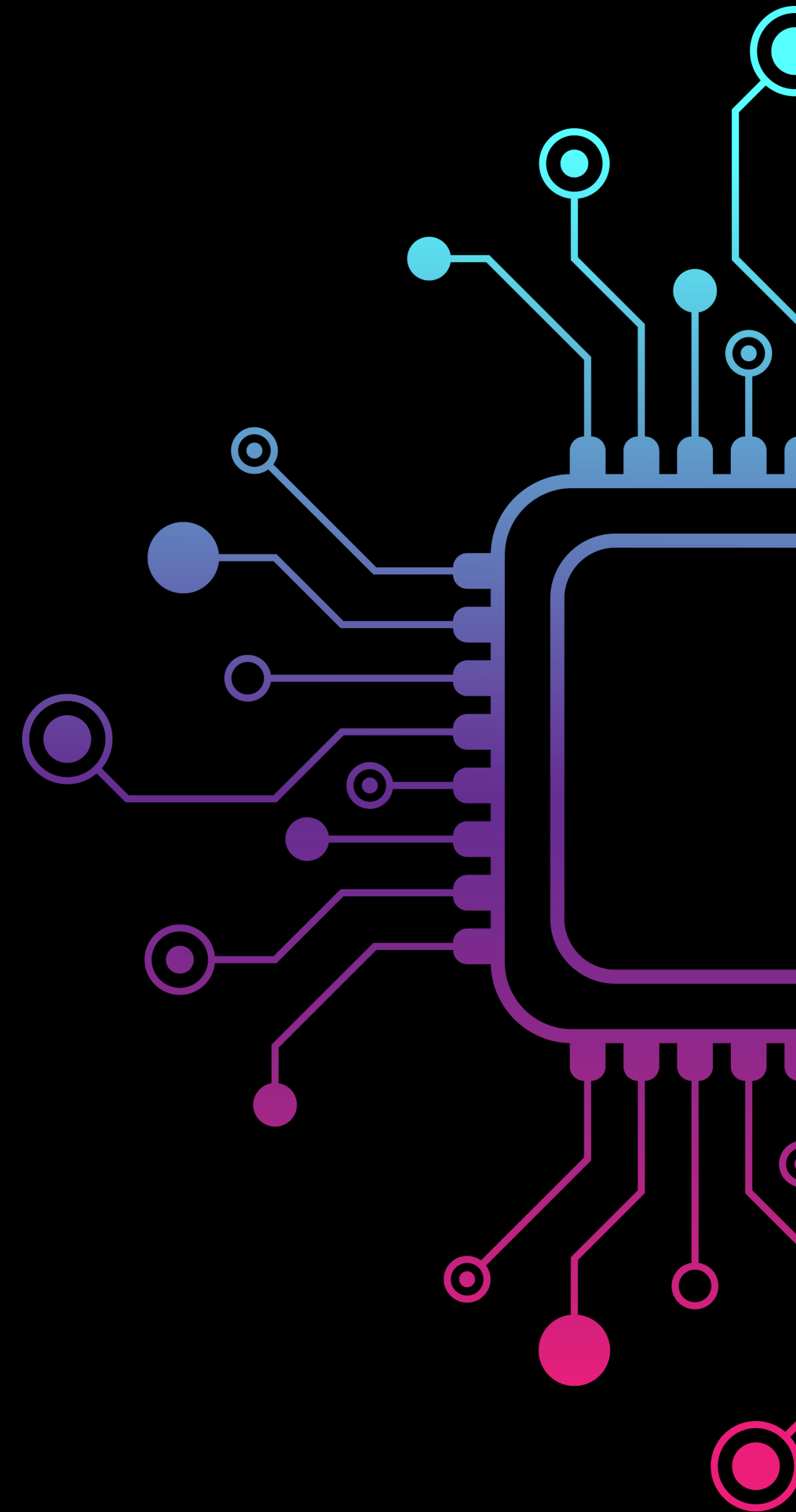
Public information about:

- why we use AI
- how we Govern AI
- types of AI we use
- who our AI Accountable Official is
- where to go for more information.



Current status

- New policies and the AI/ADM-specific risk framework have been in place since Dec 2024.
- An internal stock take has identified over 70 AI/ADM use cases that may need to go through the assessment process.
- Being applied to all AI/ADM uses including commercial products and inhouse builds.



Addressing the Future

AI Regulation in the EU (AI Act)

Use of AI for Public Services

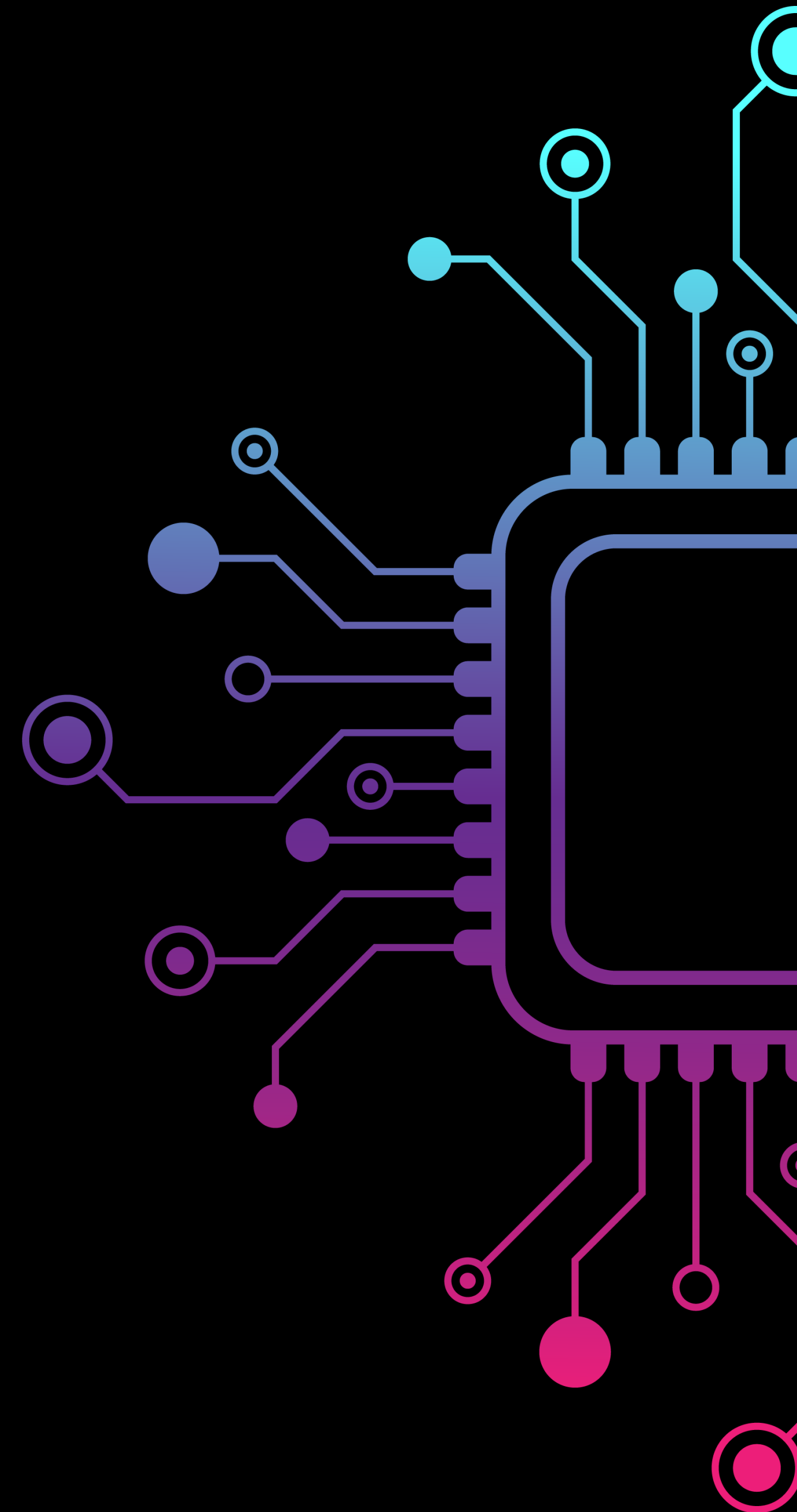
AI for Climate Policy & Urban Planning

Digital ID and Facial Recognition

Public Algorithm Registers

Government AI Ethics Boards

Bias Auditing Mandates





Australian Government

IP Australia

Contact us

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