TITLE (20 words maximum**)**

"How Australian Catholic University is Reshaping Enterprise Architecture Practice"

ABSTRACT CONTENT (300 words)

Enterprise Architecture Management is a critical part of planning and implementing an organisation's business strategy. Traditionally, this has been the realm of specialised experts taking an advisory role to business units, based primarily on technical needs and priorities.

At Australian Catholic University, we do things a little differently. Our Enterprise Architecture team have partnered with our University stakeholders to empower them to own their IT environments, solutions, and projects. After all, who knows their requirements better than the faculty or business unit? Who understands their audience better than the ones supporting them?

ACU Enterprise Architecture is intended to pull back the curtain on business unit technology environments and help leaders uncover and understand their business capabilities, strengths, gaps and collaboratively create a roadmap to move them forward. After all, who better to advise on technology opportunities and capabilities than the technical experts running them?

Of course, we couldn't simply present our stakeholders with our Solution Architecture documents and expect our stakeholders to understand the golden opportunities they hold. To help facilitate these critical conversations, we leverage technologies and processes that speak their language and bridge the gap between technical know-how and end-user experience.

This conversation's key platforms and frameworks are our Idea-to-Reality (I2R) framework, ICT Governance, and our collaborative enterprise architecture management platform. The I2R framework ensures demands from businesses are assessed effectively through consultation and rationalisation. University-wide ICT Governance ensures changes are in line with ACU strategic priorities. LeanIX, our centralised platform, provides a human-readable view into system ownership, dependencies, functionality, and status. For the first time, business stakeholders can log into an accessible system at any time to explore the technology at their fingertips and consider University-wide impacts to systems, stakeholders, and processes introduced across application lifecycle phases.

COVID-19 has forced Universities to reprioritise the 'must haves' over the 'nice to haves' and reassess where existing tools can be explored further. As a result, it is more important than ever to have an enterprise architecture practice that facilitates fruitful discussions about technology and a productive relationship between IT and the business.

We propose to share our approach to Enterprise Architecture, facilitated by robust architecture platform and processes, focusing on key, actionable insights that can help others move towards a rewarding partnership with their organisations.