Proposal for Integrated 4-Year Honours degree in Computer Science, with an optional Major in Artificial Intelligence

The School of CSE propose to introduce an integrated 4-year Honours program called "Bachelor of Advanced Computer Science(Honours)", with an optional Major in Artificial Intelligence. These would be similar in structure to the existing Bachelor of Advanced Science(Honours), but would be administered independently from it. The requirements would be as follows:

(a) Students would need to complete the requirements for the existing 3-year BSc(CS) degree (3778) before commencing the Honours year (and enroling in Thesis A). The 3-year degree has:
66 Core + 12 Gen-Ed + 36 Free Electives + 30 COMP[3469]xxx

(b) The requirements for the 4-year degree would be the same as those of the existing 3-year degree plus those of the existing 1-year Honours Only degree (4515), i.e.:
18 UoC Thesis + 30 UoC COMP[469]xxx
The only difference is that students would have the flexibility to do some COMP[469]xxx courses in the first three years, and some third year courses in the final year.

(c) The Artificial Intelligence Major would be similar in structure, but would have additional constraints in terms of including a certain number of AI-related courses.

(d) For both the degree itself and the AI major, we might allow students to substitute one or two approved courses from another school, in place of a high-level COMP course.

The motivation for this is as follows: The existing (since 2014) Honours Only program (4515) requires all five courses in the Honours year to be COMP[469]xxx. Feedback from (especially, top-performing) students is that this is too rigid. Enrolments have dropped since the change, and top students in particular are transferring to MATH, or to USyd which offers greater flexibility. The new program, with the same overall requirements but greater flexibility as to timing, would appeal to a greater number of students, especially the top performing students.
Other Majors such as Security could potentially be introduced over time. The new program would probably have a higher ATAR than the existing 3-year program, but students would be able to transfer into it if their WAM is high enough. The existing 4515 Program would need to be retained, mainly for the benefit of students transferring in from other universities.