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Australian Government Productivity Commission

BPIC SUBMISSION - Productivity Commission's (PC) review of the National Competition Policy (NCP) 2025 - FEEDBACK ON INTERIM REPORT

The Building Products Industry Council (BPIC) is a national peak body representing Australia's leading building products industries and related services (listed in the footer of this document) in:

Steel	Gypsum Board	Concrete	
Insulation	Timber Products	Roof Tiles	Glass
Windows	Clay Bricks	Concrete Masonry	
Cement	Tiles	Insulated Sandwich Panels	

BPIC's members and associated companies directly employ 243,300 people and a further 796,500 indirectly. About 262,000 firms make up the sector and manufacturing, fabrication and installation activity accounts for \$67.3 billion in economic activity. BPIC is a not for profit organisation governed by a Board of Directors comprised of representatives from its member organisations.

BPIC is both an active participant in and supports the current development system of a wide range of Australian/New Zealand Standards, Codes, guides, and supporting documents that underpin our supply chains, our markets, and the built environment. We also support efforts to improve the efficiency and build on the credible standard development system that is supported by scientific review and technical contribution from subject and industry experts over many years.

We urge the PC to consider the following points in their review:

- Any standard development process needs to suit Australian conditions such as climate, technical differences, and local/regional practices. An example is Australian Standard AS 3959, 'Building in Bushfire Prone Areas', which specifically acknowledges the risks of building in Australia's unique environment.
- Recognition that the types of standards are very broad including design, product, consumer, and test methods etc.

- When a new standard or revision of an existing standard is being proposed in Australia, Standards Australia's existing process requires that initial consideration of the adoption of existing credible international standards, either in full or in part, is undertaken.
- Any definition of international standards should be broader than just the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and include other credible standards such as European Standards (EN) or the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).
- Our sector already adopts international standards where they are relevant and fit-for-purpose. Recent manufacturing and product standard examples include the I-beams test method and high-pressure laminates.
- Decisions on adoption and any necessary amendments should be considered and reviewed by local and subject matter experts on a scientific and technical basis (e.g., through existing relevant Standards Australia technical committees). Part of any review should be consideration of the scope and equivalence between Australian and international standards.
- Public and consumer access to and cost of all standards, including international standards, is an essential consideration and we strongly support exploring government-funded access to mandated standards.
- Sustainability and commercial viability of Standards Australia should be considered in any decision making around the standard development framework.
- Complexity of demonstrating compliance via international standards should also be considered.
- We also strongly caution against regulators undertaking reviews, or embedding specific standards in legislation. This risks creating parallel systems outside the established standards process. This undermines national consistency by bypassing Australia's transparent, consensus-driven approach, sidelining expert input and weakening trust in the system.

If you have any queries on this submission, please contact:

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