Australasian BIM Advisory Board Submission to the National Construction Strategy

The Australasian BIM Advisory Board (ABAB) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Productivity Commission National Competition Policy analysis 2025. As a leading collaboration of government and industry experts, ABAB is dedicated to advancing the consistent and effective adoption of Building Information Modelling (BIM) and Digital Engineering (DE) across Australasia's built environment sector.

About the Australasian BIM Advisory Board

ABAB was jointly established by the Australasian Procurement and Construction Council (APCC) and the Australian Construction Industry Forum (ACIF) along with major industry bodies, NATSPEC, buildingSMART, and Standards Australia in 2017. These organisations collectively represent an influential sector of the built environment and contribute significantly to nationally important projects.

This collaboration of 26 construction industry and all state and territory jurisdictions from across Australia and New Zealand represents a common-sense approach that captures the synergies existing in, and between, each organisation's areas of responsibility in the built environment.

ABAB is committed to optimal delivery of outcomes that eliminate waste, maximise end-user benefits, and increase the productivity of the Australasian economies through digital enablement across the entire lifecycle of design, construction, and operations of infrastructure.

ABAB's Mission and Strategies

- *Mission: Improved productivity and asset outcomes for people and places through a coordinated approach to the adoption of digital enablement for the built environment.*
- *Strategies:*
    1. *To take a national leadership role in the adoption of digital enablement for the built environment across Australasia.*
    2. *To support the Australasian building and construction industry, through driving consistency in digital enablement approaches and strategies for the built environment through functional requirements and by coordinating a standard suite of data structures, standards, protocols, systems and tools.*

Feedback on the National Competition Policy

The Australasian BIM Advisory Board (ABAB) welcomes the opportunity to provide input into national licensing reforms and their alignment with digital engineering (DE) standards and frameworks. As a cross-jurisdictional collaboration of government and industry, ABAB plays a key role in promoting consistency in the adoption and integration of BIM and DE across Australasia.

We offer the following reflections in response to the inquiry:

1. Embedding Digital Engineering Competencies in Licensing
ABAB supports national licensing reforms that incorporate digital engineering competencies into the core capabilities of key construction and infrastructure occupations. Embedding DE into licensing frameworks will help ensure that the workforce is equipped with the digital skills needed to deliver productivity gains, improve quality, and support innovation across the sector.

2. Alignment with Existing Standards and Frameworks

We advocate for any licensing-related digital competency requirements to be aligned with established national and international digital engineering frameworks. ABAB has contributed to the harmonised utilisation of such frameworks, ensuring best practice, interoperability, and responsiveness to evolving industry needs.

ABAB encourages the use of open and interoperable data exchange standards, which contribute to improving project efficiency, supporting system integration, and enabling consistent data use across platforms and jurisdictions. Alignment with such standards avoids duplication, reduces confusion, and supports a coherent national approach.

3. Benefits of Consistent Digital Skill Recognition

Consistency in digital skill recognition across jurisdictions and professions can:

- Increase workforce mobility across projects and regions.
- Support the development of a nationally upskilled workforce.
- Enable more reliable benchmarking of capability across the sector.
- Build confidence among clients, contractors, and educators in the standard of digital delivery.

4. ABAB as a Model of National Coordination

ABAB's governance structure and collaborative model provide a successful example of national coordination in a fragmented sector. By bringing together state and federal government agencies alongside private industry leaders, ABAB has built consensus around digital strategy, standards, procurement, education, and capability building.

Supporting Resources

- ABAB endorsed Standards and Guides
- Austroads Guide to Digital Engineering

For further details or to discuss this submission, please feel free to contact.

Yours sincerely,

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