

Principles and scope of a Building Product Registration Scheme





Acknowledgement of Country

Our department recognises the First Peoples of this nation and their ongoing connection to culture and country. We acknowledge First Nations Peoples as the Traditional Owners, Custodians and Lore Keepers of the world's oldest living culture and pay respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Presentation

**The Australian
Building Codes
Board**

**How did we get
here?**

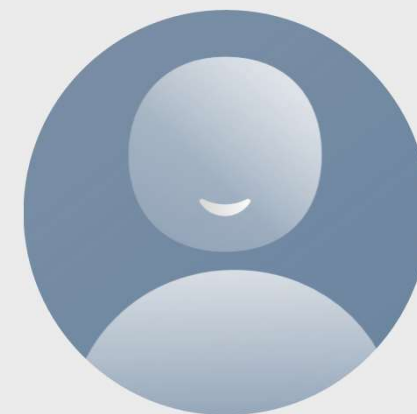
**What makes
this proposed
Scheme
different?**

**Proposed
structure and
operation of
the Scheme**

**Who does
what?**

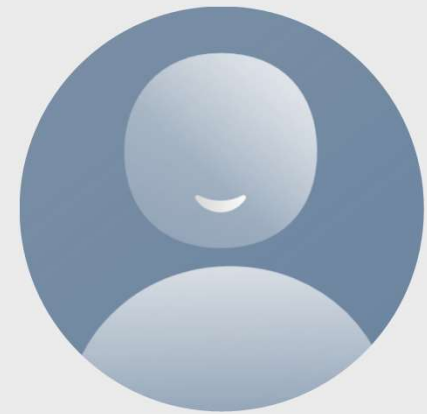
**Summary of
key changes**

**Consultation:
give us your
views**



Housekeeping

- **Can you please submit questions on the presentation through the Q&A feature?**
- **We will aim to address common themes amongst participant questions**



The Australian Building Codes Board

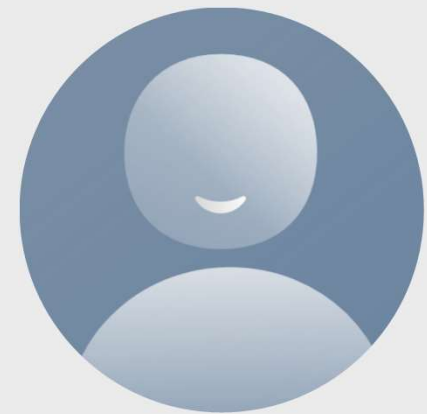
Standards setting body responsible for the National Construction Code (NCC), WaterMark and CodeMark Certification Schemes

Joint initiative of all levels of government in Australia, together with the construction industry



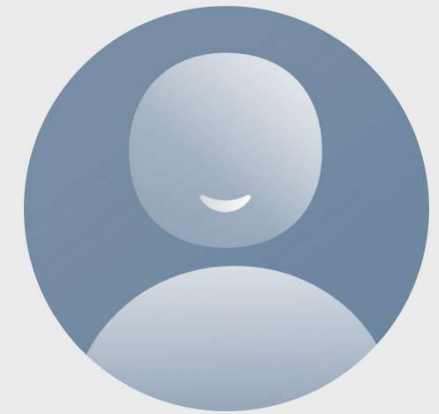
How did we get here?

- **Building product failures – in Australian and overseas**
- **Building Confidence Report (Shergold-Weir Review)**
- **Collaborative work by a group of jurisdiction senior officers**
- **Non-conforming products**
- **Non-compliant uses**
- **Slow and inaccurate product choices**
- **Global supply chains add to complexity**
- **Scheme to address unacceptable risks and lack of confidence**



How did we get here continued?

- **Building ministers sought a proposal in June 2024**
- **Since June, received many questions about Scheme detail**
- **Important to note that no decision has yet been made**
- **Feedback responding to the discussion paper will be considered prior to any decision**
- **To help interested parties understand the potential parameters, we have prepared a reasonably detailed proposal to stimulate discussion.**
 - **framework against which comments and alternate proposals can be shaped**
- **If Scheme were created, likely to require several more years development, in partnership with industry and jurisdictions, then an implementation period for smooth transition.**



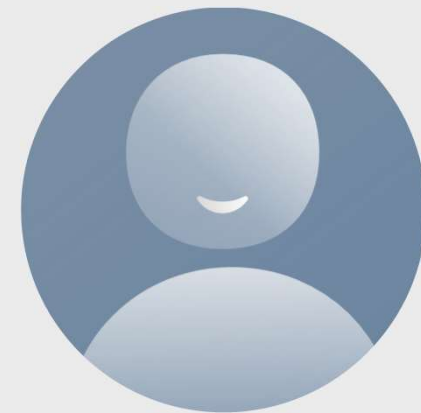
What makes this different?

- **National coverage and linked to NCC approvals**
- **Underpinned by NCC reforms and Evidence of suitability requirements**
- **Will promote consumer and industry confidence**
- **Would recognise appropriate existing schemes**



Aims of the Scheme

- **Establish a risk-based product conformance Scheme for all building products**
- **Require public standardised product information and traceability**
- **Establish a national register for designated products**
- **Cost recovered without unnecessary duplication**

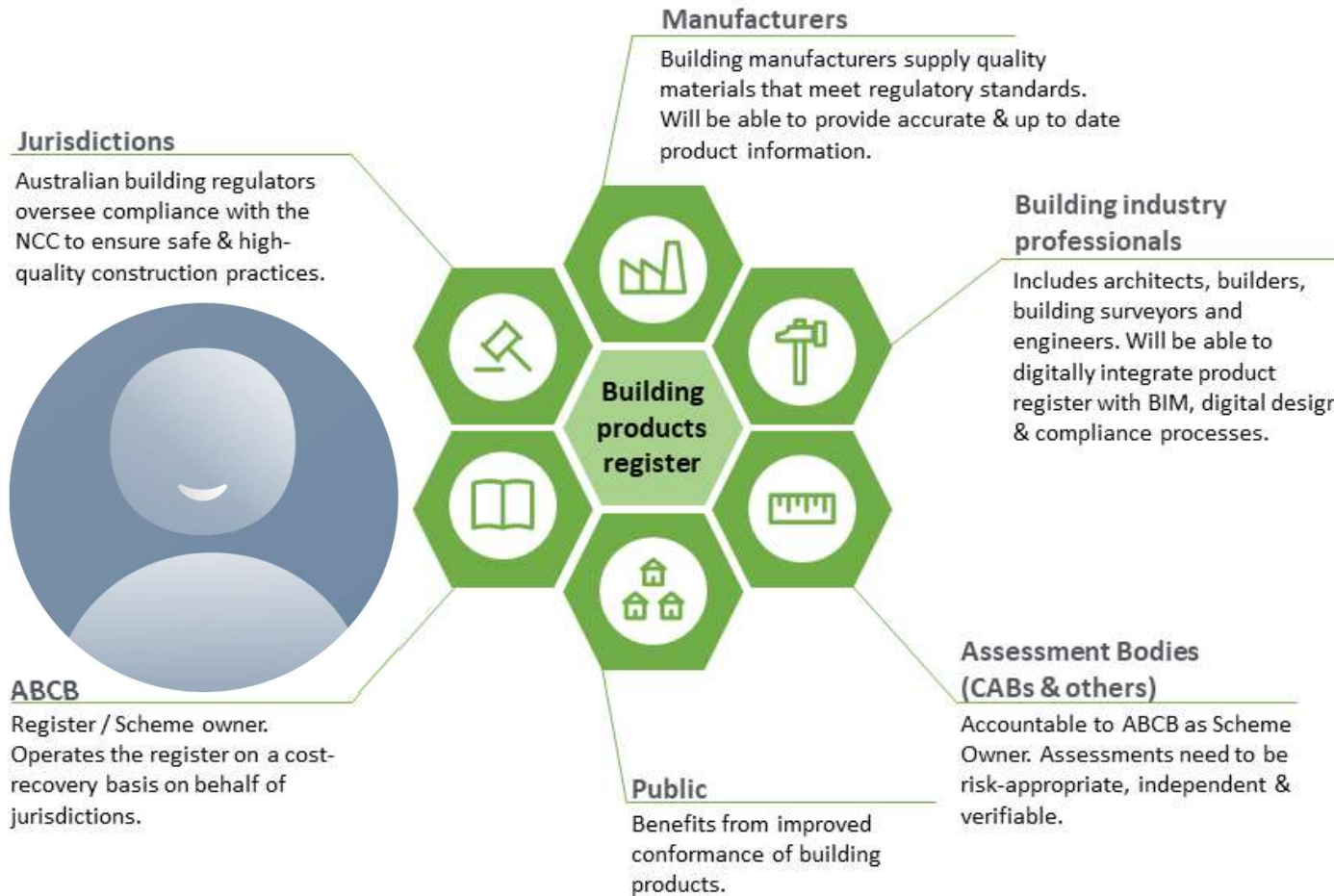


Key focus and limitations

- Evidence for designated products must be risk appropriate, independent, and verifiable
- Non-designated building products may be voluntarily registered and self-assessed
- The Scheme expands available building product information
- Common compliance issues are identified by manufacturers
- Amendments may be required to other schemes



Principles & scope for a building product scheme



Enablers	Chain of responsibility
	Specified minimum product information in same format
	Designated products mandatory inclusion, other building products self-assessed
	Evidence of Suitability under the NCC and assessment to fit for intended purpose standard
	Mandatory labelling requirements linked to register and approvals
	Auditing and realistic chance of enforcement
	Existing Schemes
	Product identifiers and international traceability
	National coverage and public accessibility
Education	

Structure of the Scheme

- 1. Intent is to deliver benefits for consumers, industry and regulators**
- 2. Better building product information**
- 3. Risk-based approach to demonstrating NCC conformance**
- 4. Transparent processes**
- 5. How the Scheme will operate on a sustainable basis**



Benefits to industry and consumers

- **Faster access to accurate product information**
- **Streamlined and faster approvals**
- **Better quality housing and greater assurance of conformance**
- **Easier selection of conforming building products for professionals**
- **Clear installation information and examples of non-compliant/unintended uses**
- **Support faster construction in priority areas**



Better building product information

- **Minimum Information for Transparency and Compliance**
- **Standardised format with manufacturers responsible for updating**
- **Plain English - incl description, support and product details**
- **Statement of product purpose and intended use**
- **Instructions for Compliance**
- **NCC Conformity Declaration and reference to applicable specification**
- **Mandatory labelling and global Interoperable Digital Identifier**
- **Warranty Details and Compliance Issues**



Risk-based approach

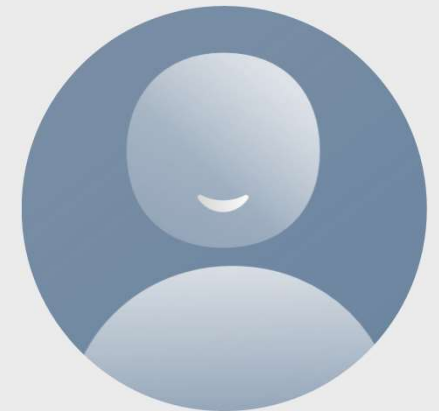
- **Assessment would be proportionate to risk and risk-appropriate, independent and verifiable.**
- **Designated products category will be determined by the Board in consultation with jurisdictions.**
- **The Scheme would leverage existing processes and schemes to avoid unnecessary duplication.**
- **Other products can be self-registered on a voluntary basis but on the basis of evidence in relation to building product claims.**
- **Could include support for modular and prefab – particular for complex products.**



Scheme trust, education and promotion

Principles of the Scheme

- **Two marks: Designated/certified products and voluntary/self-assessed Products**
- **Interoperable with appropriate existing schemes and systems**
- **Manufacturers must update information on register**
- **Prominent links to complaint handling**
- **Clear messaging about the role of the Scheme**
- **Validation and verification by ABCB**



What does this mean for Manufacturers?

- **Minimum information on all building products**
- **Standardised format on the register or web**
- **Accessible public product webpage if not on register**
- **Labelling and digital identifiers for all products**
- **Allows traceability and transparency for product substitution**
- **Mandatory register for designated products**
- **Voluntary register entries for other products**



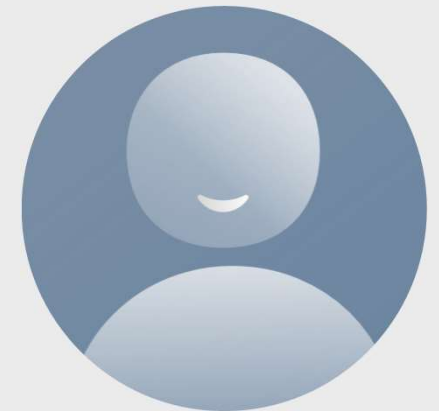
Scheme Operation, Sustainability and Oversight

Principles

- Operates nationally, on a cost-recovery basis
- Periodic oversight by Building Ministers through the Building Ministers Meeting (BMM)

What this could mean

- Operated by the ABCB on behalf of jurisdictions
- Registration fees to cover the costs of administering the Scheme
- An annual report on the Scheme usage and performance to BMM



Proposed Scheme – summary of key changes

- **All building products required to have minimum information in a standardised format**
 - Building products would be traceable through labelling, digital identifiers and for many through a product register
- **New risk-based category of ‘designated products’ in NCC**
 - Designated products determined by the Board in consultation with jurisdictions through combined assessment of products’ uses, safety and risk of defects
- **Establish national register** – mandatory registration for designated products and voluntary, self-assessed, registration for other building products.

No change to State and territory govts construction approvals and enforcement



No major changes planned for existing schemes – avoids duplication

Making a submission

- **Discussion paper frames questions**
- **4 weeks consultation closing 3 October 2024 - incl an online session**
- **Submissions should be made on consultation hub**
- **We're asking:**
 - **Level of support for the proposed scheme**
 - **Minimum information and access to test results**
 - **Risk-based approach to NCC conformance**
 - **Designation of complex modular products**



Submission questions continued

- **We'll also be asking about:**
 - **Balance of evidence, acceptance and auditing**
 - **Principles of transparency and information sharing**
 - **Principles for operation and sustainability**
 - **Any other issues**

