

# Standards Australia Bulletin

## Our New Business Model in Action

### Greywater and the SA EPA

One of the most recent projects finalised through our Collaborative Pathway for Standards development, introduced under our New Business Model, is a new Standard for greywater treatment systems used on boats in waterways such as the Murray River.

The Standard, completed in just 11 months, is now available and was developed to support new South Australian environmental legislation.

Standards Australia worked with the South Australian Environment Protection Authority to develop the Standard for the design, construction, installation and operation of greywater treatment systems for vessels operated on inland waters.

“Working with Standards Australia we have created an important new Standard that will deliver real environmental benefits for the River Murray communities and all Australians,” said Paul De Ionno of the South Australian Environment Protection Authority and Chair of the Committee.

“The process was efficient, effective and rigorous and we came up with a Standard that all stakeholders are happy with,” Paul said.

### Electric Vehicles

To support national priorities for energy and emissions reductions and automotive industry competitiveness, a study into the issues affecting the Australian electric vehicle market has been facilitated and completed by Standards Australia. This exciting project is in collaboration with the Victorian Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development.

*The study* identified key areas for potential governance (Standards, policies or regulations) including vehicle design, power systems, recharging interfaces, component interoperability, vehicle labelling, passenger safety, rescue and repairs. It provides valuable insights that will support the acceleration of electric vehicle technologies in Australia.

Current and emerging stakeholders including government, auto makers, infrastructure providers and the energy networks were consulted during the course of the study.

## The Future of Standards Publishing in the Information Age

Standards publishing and the income stream from the sale of Australian Standards by SAI Global continue to be a point of discussion.

It has been suggested to us that instead of asking stakeholders to help fund Standards development we should be utilising the capital funds in our investment portfolio.

This suggestion is based on the premise of Standards Australia being able to command a substantial publishing contract fee to replace these funds upon conclusion of the publishing contract with SAI Global in 2018 or 2023.

The Board and Management of Standards Australia consider that given rapid changes in e-publishing and the push for more open standards development models, to proceed on the assumption that a significant contract fee could be realised would be imprudent. Accordingly, we are dedicated to the maintaining the investment corpus.

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## Stakeholder Meetings

Over the past four years we have been working with our stakeholders to distinguish our roles and design, develop and implement our New Business Model. This new way of operating will allow Standards Australia to continue producing consensus based Australian Standards and other products in an economically sustainable and user friendly manner.

It is a model that offers a number of different Standards development options for government, business, industry and the community ranging from stakeholder contribution arrangements through to projects funded by Standards Australia.

In October 2008 we implemented some of the key elements of the new model including improved project selection criteria, better project methodologies and Net Benefit assessment for all Standards development projects.

The design and implementation of any major transformation inevitably requires fine-tuning, this is particularly true when it comes to transforming an 85-year-old Standards development system.

Our new model has received mixed feedback from participants, some accepting our new way forward and others expressing concerns about the transition. Some of these concerns relate to the introduction of financial contributions for Standards development and others relate to associated logistical arrangements.

In November we will be undertaking Australia-wide meetings with stakeholders to discuss the implementation of the New Business Model.

Further details on the meetings will be listed on [www.standards.org.au](http://www.standards.org.au) by the end of this month.

## For the Record ...

### 100% of our Operating Expenditure is Devoted to our Key Roles

Standards Australia's commitment to Standards development is at the heart of our Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Commonwealth Government that gives us our status as Australia's peak Standards organisation.

Our entire operating expenditure is devoted to the roles recognised in the MoU of 30 May 2008 which are accrediting Standards Development Organisations, coordinating national and international standardisation initiatives, developing national Standards and promoting excellence in design and innovation. We are currently working on some 350 Standards development projects, 259 of these are fully funded by Standards Australia.

### Bridge Street Office

Two years on, Standards Australia's move to Bridge Street has provided a modern facility, better technology and much easier access for Committee members and staff. Once located in the same building, the move has also helped to demonstrate that Standards Australia and SAI Global are completely separate organisations.

In selecting the Bridge Street location, some 22 buildings were inspected from South Sydney to the lower North Shore. Importantly, the move was cost neutral and not one cent less has been spent on Standards development as a result of the move from our Sussex Street offices.

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