

Standards Australia Bulletin

Standards Australia funded projects

In November, Standards Australia announced the reopening of its funded development pathways for new projects – the move has been supported by the Commonwealth and major member groups. This is in addition to other stakeholder funded development options.

The current task is to develop and agree a prioritisation framework and criteria for Standards Australia funded projects to ensure resources are allocated where they can deliver greatest benefit to the community.

The framework and criteria will be critical when demand for development of Standards Australia funded projects exceeds internal resources. This will enable fair and equitable decision-making and underpin clear and transparent processes.

The Standards Development Committee is currently considering prioritisation criteria and a framework for the selection of Standards Australia funded projects.

The draft framework and criteria will undergo stakeholder consultation in early 2010, before finalisation and implementation by end June 2010. Current active projects remain the focus for this financial year.

The resources available for ongoing Standards Australia funded projects will be determined annually by the Standards Australia Board, taking into account the necessity to operate on a sustainable basis.

Relationship Managers are available to assist stakeholders consider options and submit proposals for Standards projects across all development pathways.

New Board Members

Mr Richard Brooks, Dr Peter Burn and Mr Peter Cockbain joined the Board of Standards Australia at its Annual Council Meeting following their election in November. These three new Directors bring knowledge in Standards development, corporate governance, public policy and regulation to Standards Australia. **Biographies** can be found on Standards Australia's website.

Outgoing Directors are Ms Louise Cox AM, Mr Peter Hendy, Mr Adrian Smith and Mr Philip Small. They each have made valuable contributions to Standards Australia over many years.

Annual Council Meeting Report

A number of decisions were reached at Standards Australia's Annual Council Meeting, held on Friday 20 November 2009.

Richard Dixon Hughes was appointed an Honorary Life Councillor to recognise his significant contribution to Standards Australia over many years.

The **Consumer Electronics Suppliers Association** (CESA), the peak industry body representing suppliers of consumer electrical, electronic and major appliances, was appointed as a new Member of Standards Australia.

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Resolutions submitted by Councillors were put before Council, these being recommendations to provide more frequent reporting and additional information on operational and financial performance, and to provide access to contact details of Councillors. The Board has established a Board Committee to consider and recommend appropriate responses to each of these issues taking into account the background, cost and the requirements of the Constitution, Privacy Act and Corporations Act. The Board Committee will meet in mid-December and report back to Council by the end of February 2010.

In other matters, Mr John Castles AM, Chairman of Standards Australia, reported to Council that the Board and Management have been exploring the significant potential of further developing the Australian International Design Awards with a view to it becoming a stand alone entity with an expanded range of activities and services.

He also noted that the new Board, at a strategic level, will be exploring ways to engage in greater interaction with stakeholders and committee members centred on innovation, interaction, training and the critical exchange of ideas.

Transition

In early November, it was announced that Mr John Tucker would step down as Standards Australia's CEO. For the past five years, John led Standards Australia through a period of extensive change and necessary reform following the split from SAI Global, and led greater involvement by Australia at important international Standards activities.

Deputy CEO, Mr Colin Blair, who has worked closely with the Board, management and the Standards community over many years, has taken on the role of Acting CEO.

Over the coming months Standards Australia will:

- ~ continue to focus on the important role of standards development;
- ~ develop a prioritisation framework for Standards Australia funded projects;
- ~ build on standards development project management processes, skills and operational efficiencies to deliver more timely outcomes and better utilise committee members' valuable time;
- ~ strengthen stakeholder interaction; and
- ~ engage with stakeholders on standards work programs and priority needs.

Consultation - National Standardisation Strategy

The **National Standards Advisory Committee** has developed a consultation paper, "**A National Standardisation Strategy for Australia**". The Strategy outlines strategic principles and initiatives to guide the development, coordination and alignment of voluntary standards in Australia.

Stakeholders are invited to comment on the **Strategy** which can be viewed at www.standards.org.au

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